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ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT MONTREAL GAZETTE SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019

SECTION H



If you have the space, a pond like this can do wonders not only for your own psyche but also for the ecosystem in your backyard. PHOTO COURTESY OF JARDINS AQUADESIGN

## A water feature in your outdoor space

JENNIFER COX

There's something serene and comforting about water features such as ponds, waterfalls and water walls. Not only are they esthetically wonderful, but they can also help contribute to the ecosystems that can be found in your backyard. And if you're a city dweller, they can strategically be used to block out exterior noises and, instead, provide the soothing sound of running, babbling water.

"The summer is so short in Quebec that our backyards need to be exciting," said Jean Brûlé, an "aquadesigner" from Jardins Aquadesign. "When the season arrives, people need to have a lot of beauty surrounding them as soon as possible — we have to grab it and enjoy our backyard as much as we can."

As soon as a water accessory is set up and running, the ambience it creates is like no other — homeowners immediately feel as if they've been transported to the country, where only the sounds of nature can be heard.

There are a wide variety of water features that can be integrated into a yard, balcony, or even rooftop. They can be used on large, open properties, or even smaller, more modest ones. If you enjoy being outdoors and working in your garden, you can set them up and maintain them, or you can hire professionals to take care of everything for you. It all depends on your landscape design, your budget, and your family's lifestyle.

**PONDS, BIG AND SMALL**  
Ponds have always been the go-to water feature of choice, mostly because there are so many options when it comes to size, shape and materials. There are DIY kits you can use to build your own, as well as systems that can be installed by experts. Ponds can be fresh or salt water with an endless array of water plants to choose from. There's different wildlife you can introduce, too, from fish to frogs.

A newer trend today is to take ponds one step further and go big — really big! "In larger backyards we're seeing a lot of people doing



Even a rooftop patio can benefit from the soothing effects of a water wall feature like this one. PHOTO COURTESY OF WATERFOUNTAINSCANADA.CA

swimming ponds," said Brûlé. "They're very appealing because they are natural, with no chemicals, and it's good for your health to swim in pure water like that."

Still, there are also very modest patio ponds that can be as small as two feet by two feet and fit on a table. "You can add miniature water lilies and other aquatic plants, a little bamboo fountain, and goldfish, too," he said.

**WATERFALLS AND WALLS**  
While ponds have the beautiful stillness of water, falls and walls offer homeowners the sound of mov-

ing water. This can be the trickle of a creek or the rush of a raging river. "Esthetically-speaking, waterfalls are very natural," Brûlé said; they are a wonderful addition to both a country setting and also a more raw, concrete city dwelling where touches of nature are sparse.

"We're seeing more and more condos adding water walls because there's less green space," said Georges Timmons, owner of Espacedeau.ca and WaterfountainsCanada.ca. "The average home will have a bit of green grass, but the condos don't have that, so they want the feeling of the water and

being connected to nature, and they go with a water wall."

The footprint for waterfalls or walls can be small, and only need to go around 12 inches deep. But they can go as high as nine feet tall. "These are perfect for clients who are looking for something that is beautiful and has a big impact but is low maintenance," Timmons said.

**SPECIFIC GARDENS**  
Quite often, homeowners are looking to integrate a water feature into a theme-type of garden. SEE WATER FEATURES ON **H3**

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