

THE HOME CHEFS

WHO THEY ARE: Barry Burciul, 48, development consultant, and David Lightfoot, 53, medical librarian

WHERE THEY'RE QUARANTINING: A century home in the Pocket near Danforth and Greenwood



BARRY AND DAVID recently gutted their home, knocking down the kitchen and living room walls to create an open-concept layout. Now, in lockdown, they're reaping the benefits of their extensive reno: lots of space, an abundance of natural light and a peaceful atmosphere. "Loving our space has been a huge help with our moods," says David. "We worry a lot about our friends in health care and those who live alone," he says.

A hospital librarian with Unity Health, he's working in the basement office area, which has bookshelves, a reading nook and a desk. He sets up there during the day to field emails, Slack with his colleagues and take his weekly Spanish lesson with a teacher in Guatemala. He's also working with the Toronto Writers Collective, which offers writing classes for people experiencing economic hardship or mental illness. Before the pandemic, Barry started an international development consultancy, which has been put on hold indefinitely. To keep busy, he launched a cooking blog called Our Long Table, and spends most days in the kitchen.

A few months before lockdown, the couple got an Australian shepherd puppy named Frida. They've never been morning people but now David rises with the sun to take her out every morning. "She's the main reason we get out of the house for some exercise," he says. They also spend an hour every week doing virtual classes with their puppy trainer. They have two cats as well, and the three animals follow Barry and David around the house for most of the day—they're getting especially skilled at Zoom-bombing meetings.

Come late afternoon, Barry will watch the *Bon Appétit* YouTube channel on his iPad and start planning dinner: at Easter, he grilled Thai-style Cornish hens. David, meanwhile, is baking sourdough for their friends working on the front lines. "My goal is to make a loaf of spectacular sourdough for one health care worker friend each week."



Their housekeeper is quarantining at home—they're still paying her—so the pair alternate cleaning the kitchen. "It's whoever gets most frustrated with the mess first," says Barry.

Their freezer is packed with meat from Fresh From the Farm on Donlands and Olliffe in Summerhill, which they get delivered. Recently, Barry roused the Kamado grill from its winter hibernation so he can do more outdoor grilling

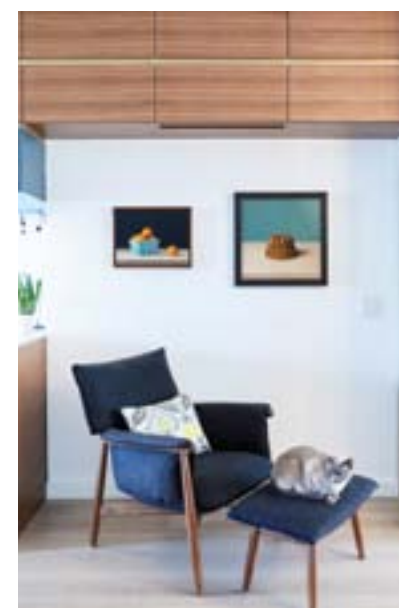


Their master bathroom, with a steam shower and soaker tub, has been a nice refuge. "Since we can't go out to celebrate, we are finding ways to make baths special with a glass of wine and candles," says David

THE QUARANTINE ROUTINE



In the evening, they retreat to the family room. David is currently reading *What You Have Heard Is True* by Carolyn Forché, and Barry is catching up on back issues of *Toothache*, a culinary magazine



The couple—and their cat, Miles—like to relax on this Carl Hansen chair and ottoman