


NEW HOMES & CONDOS

'They' say summer is over


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I want to meet, "they". Who are these people who tell us that summer is over after Labour Day and it's time to eliminate all white clothing and footwear from our wardrobe? Is it scientific?

No, it's not even based on any reality. So, "they", I have news for you, there's still some summer left to enjoy. Here's how to extend the season a little longer.

First, get out your white shoes and wear them as long as you want. Next, if someone asks you when summer is over, I will personally tell you.

I am a harbinger of seasonal change, or actually my neighbors are, their air conditioner goes on in May and goes off sometime in late October. It's different every year.

But the way to stretch out the season, whether you have a backyard or a balcony, is to embrace your outdoor space and make it a "room" with benefits. Start with the warmth of a fire.

Controlled fires from gas or wood-burning fire pits aren't allowed in all neighborhoods but you can consider a tab-

leto flame like the Eco Feu Sunset Ethanol Fireplace. It will give off heat and a beautiful flame. Choose matte black for a modern look.

Speaking of light, outdoor string or rope lights are not just for Christmas. If you resisted hanging a line of vintage-looking Edison bulbs all summer because you're worried about what "they" would say, just do it.

Lights twinkling in the night look fantastic and offer a festive and inviting glow. I also augment my outdoor lighting with lots of candles.

Lanterns in various sizes, randomly placed around and on tables, looks elegant and adds to the ambience. I tend to use tall pillars as opposed to votive candles but you can never have too many, whichever you choose.

If you start to feel a little chill from the evening air, throw on a throw. Fleece, wool, hand-knit or store bought, it doesn't

matter, if it keeps you cozy that's all that matters.

I like to have over-sized baskets filled with extra throws for guests, so we can all hunker down when we toast marshmallows, or enjoy egg nog. Just kidding, I'm not that much of a rebel. Outdoor polypropylene baskets can last longer than the natural ones outdoors and look great, too.

Today's outdoor fabrics are made to stand up to scorching sun and all the other elements weather puts us through. So, go for lots of pillows. Like a sofa indoors, or your bed, you can never have too many.

Even when the trees start changing colour and losing their leaves it can't hurt to introduce some faux greenery into your outdoor space.

Boxwoods planters are great if you like the traditional look or you can recreate your own Margaritaville with faux palm trees. So what if "they" laugh at your



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folly. You're the one having fun looking for salt shakers.

I'm impressed with how furnishings have migrated outdoors, they're made for the elements and look good enough to bring indoors.

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Make the season last as long

as you can. Do not go gently into the next season before enjoying every last bit of summer no matter what "they" say.

— Jane Lockhart is an award-winning designer and TV personality considered to be one of Canada's leading experts in the world of design. Visit www.janelockhart.com.

Host your own celebrity-style TIFF party


NATALIE DEANE
DECOR
AND MORE

Toronto has rolled out the red carpet to welcome the flash and dazzle of Hollywood celebrities for the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

Beyond the film screenings, Toronto shows these stars a good time with luxury gifting lounges and fabulous parties.

These invite only exclusive VIP events are the place to be during TIFF. Now, I will open the door to these sought after celebrations to share some tips and ideas to host your own celeb style party.

Maison Moët

Is there anything that says luxury living like a sparkling glass of Moët? With a chic white and gold theme Maison Moët was the pinnacle of simple elegance.

Do this at home with some DIY like spray painting that old hall table a white lacquer with gold accents. Pull out the china sets or candelabras and crystal that never get used. One of the fun additions to this soiree was the mini Moët vending machine – worth the binge if you want to impress your friends!

Best Dressed

Toronto Life honours the stylish and fashionable at this glamorous fete. Steal this idea and honour your friends with some fun awards; best friend, best drinking buddy, worst dresser, worst golfer the list goes on.

This party brought the inside out and created a red velvet Masi wine lounge on the patio along with some

sketch artists that drew flattering portraits of guests. Have a budding artist in your family? Let them show off their skills and entertain your guests.

Movie Party

This slapstick black comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Selma Blair made its premiere at TIFF with fantastic reviews! The party at Cactus Club after was just as fun, ask Nic and Selma, featuring an '80s and '90s theme, with a music list that included everything from new wave, to alt-rock, to punk and glam rock as well as food like tuna stacks and chocolate peanut butter crunch cups. All of this is easy to do at home and I'm sure you still have that mixed tape you can pop in your old cassette player.

Stylist Suite

Always one of the best gifting lounges, Stylist Suite is the celebrity go to for red carpet gowns from designers like Christopher Paunil, Hilary Macmillan and Mani Jassal along with opulent jewelry and one of the hottest Hollywood party trends — botox



At the Bask-It-Style event at TIFF, media are invited to indulge themselves with a variety of gift ideas from beauty to fashion to books and technology.

by Dr. Pearlman.

Host the ultimate in a girl's night! No high end designer clothes? Do a fun clothing exchange along with beauty masks and splurge a little by setting up botox treatments.

Bask-it Style

This experiential lounge had some original techie ideas for your at home shindig. Let your invitees leave with a memory of the event – the new HP Sprocket Photo Printer lets you print out 2" X 3" photos from any smartphone in seconds.

Rakuten Kobo showed off their new audio books with a full 4D experience using a Samsung Gear VR. Pick a cool book, add some outstanding visuals and this will blow your friends minds.

IT House

Always a celebrity favour-

ite pit stop, this lounge is decorated with amazing artwork from Canada's premier Rock & Roll gallery, Analogue Gallery. Steal this idea for your own festivity and print out some of your favourite Instagram posts with friends and family.

Stars were lining up to have their Aura read and professional portrait taken. Most psychics will come to your home for a small fee and tips from your friends. Set up a vignette with your best chair, a sophisticated table and great art for guests to take their own portraits.

Canada Goose

This has to be one of the best galas of TIFF. Walking in, you were greeted by a ballroom transformed with glowing light icebergs, poster size winter imagery and a 12 foot polar bear ice sculpture.

The Canadian food theme and specialty cocktails added

to the ambiance. Stars like Cuba Gooding Jr, Kate Upton and Olivia Culpo mingled with guests while DJ crew A Tribe Called Red had everyone on the dance floor warming up for a grand performance by Kendrick Lamar. You may not be able to have all these heavy hitters at your gathering, but you could get a good DJ rather than just listening to your fave playlist. Why not have a celebrity themed fancy party and have your pals dress up as film icons.

You don't have to be rich and famous to pull off these festive ideas! All these TIFF tips are easy to do the next time you throw your own special soiree.

— Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who shares tips for everyday living through decor, entertaining and household trends.