

MAY/JUNE 2010

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THE TOP SHOP

THE LONDON COMPANY CELEBRATES ITS
25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A PARTY AND
A NEW COUNTER FOR RON & LINDA PETRONIS

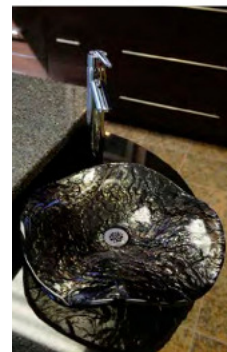
David Dean decided to mark the 25th anniversary of his company, The Top Shop, with a splash.

Dean surprised Ron and Linda Petronis with the gift of a custom-made granite counter for their east London home. In 1985, the Petronises were Dean's first customers when they purchased a counter that Dean installed.

"It certainly came as quite a surprise," says Ron Petronis. "My wife, Linda, took the call and we both wondered, 'What's the catch?' We kept waiting for the other shoe to drop, but there is no catch. The call just came 25 years later, out of the blue, and now we have a beautiful new kitchen countertop."

This isn't the first time the couple has received a gift from The Top Shop. To celebrate the company's first anniversary, Dean sent Ron and Linda a bottle of champagne. When Dean started planning the company's 25th anniversary, he recalled his first customers and decided to do something special.

The Petronises visited The Top Shop's warehouse at 502 First St. and selected a slab of granite. Dean also gave them a new sink and faucet, which inspired them to opt for new kitchen cabinetry, too. The total value of the new countertop, sink and faucets is about \$5,000. The renovation took place late last winter.



"It's just our way of saying thank you," Dean says.

To further commemorate The Top Shop's anniversary, Dean invited the Petronises and 300 other guests from across Ontario, Quebec, and the United States to a special gala at the Crystal Ballroom at the Lamplighter Inn in April. Dean also made a \$25,000 donation to the Children's Health Foundation, formerly the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario.

In the last 25 years, The Top Shop has grown to 50 employees and has become a major supplier of granite, quartz, laminate and solid-surface kitchen counters to big box stores, independent contractors and individuals across Southern Ontario. Situated on nearly two acres of land, the company has its own warehouse, known as the "Quarry," where stone slabs are stored, as well as a 1,350-square-foot showroom.

Dean made a trend-setting decision in his early days that the company would use 1 1/4-inch countertop material instead of the more common 3/4-inch material.

"I wanted to be different from everybody else. I wanted us to have an edge in quality and, as a result, our countertops are more solid, have no seams on the front edge profile yet are still very competitive," Dean says.

Consumers can view samples at the company's showroom. "We strive to provide clients with the perfect environment to choose their own slabs of granite from our Quarry, customize the edges, and other details from a large selection of colours and designs," Dean notes. ■