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Preparing Your Home for Spring

Spring is right around the corner, and for most home owners this is a great time to get your home ready. In the winter time, many portions of your home are overlooked or aren't used as often because we are staying warm inside. From the interior of your home to the exterior, space out your maintenance tips and this will help get your home ready for spring. This will ensure you'll be ready to enjoy the warmer weather once it hits.

Start on the Exterior:

Take a walk around your home, the outside gets more wear and tear from the harsh winter that the interior, so start here.

- Examine caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors
- Replace old or cracking caulk
- Replace worn weather stripping
- Inspect roof for broken or missing shingles
- Clean your gutters and downspouts

Check Interior Systems:

The fall and spring are the two most important times to review your home's HVAC—heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems.

- Replace or clean filters
- Stock up on new filters if you use disposables
- Make sure your air conditioner works well before the heat settles in (it's far more economical to have to fix now if necessary than during peak times!)

Interior Spring Cleaning:

A good spring cleaning is a great opportunity to ensure everything is in good working condition.

- Test emergency systems, such as smoke detectors, home

alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers

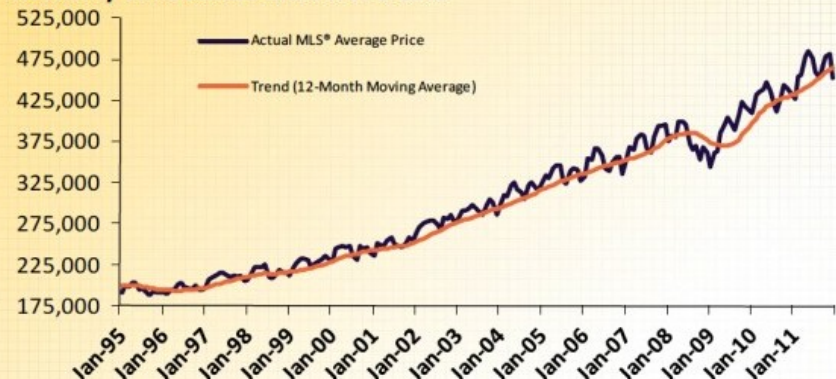
- Clean windows inside and out—you'll be shocked at how much more you'll be able to see!

- Clean off ceiling fans
- Clean out fireplaces from winter use

Preparing your home for the spring is rewarding now, and 3 months from now! Your home goes through changes as it ages, and as climatic conditions change. Spring maintenance is a good idea for everyone and even more important if you are considering putting your home on the market soon.

TREB HOUSING MARKET CHARTS

TREB MLS® Average Price Monthly Time Series with Trend Line



Source: Toronto Real Estate Board

Explanation: This chart plots monthly MLS® average price since January 1995. The blue line shows the actual average price. The brown line is the trend computed using a 12-month moving average, which exhibits no seasonal variations or other irregular fluctuations. A substantial change in actual average price must occur to change the direction of the trend.

Winter 2012

Featured Properties

COMING SOON

A Lovely 3 Bedroom Townhome in an Ideal Whitby Location



An Immaculate 4 Bedroom Executive Home in North Ajax

WE HAVE EAGER BUYERS FOR:

A Newer 4 Bedroom Home in Brooklyn

A 4 Bedroom Home with Finished Basement in Whitby

A Handyman Special in Durham



At Home With Saint Valentine By: J. McHale

This Valentine's Day, why not celebrate by doing something special for your sweetheart, all while adding to the loving feeling of your home-sweet-home. So many restaurants are



overbooked and over-priced because everyone wants to celebrate. By celebrating at home, you'll avoid the crowds and increase the intimacy at home! Here are a few ideas of how to spend Valentine's Day at your very own private retreat.

1 – Picnic by the fire: Clear off some space in front of your warm fireplace; lay out a nice cozy blanket; serve up some picnic favorites and don't forget to top it all off with some bubbly and chocolates!

2 – Personal Spa at home: Let your sweetheart come home to a nice hot bath, have a glass of wine with a few chocolates waiting on

the ledge and soft music. This is bound to unwind even the busiest of days! Follow up with a massage, and for bonus points a foot rub!

3 – Old Favorites Night: Get cozy in pj's and your favourite take-out in front of a favourite movie. Nothing beats being relaxed and comfortable with the one you love.

Take this opportunity to bring out the good china and linens and feel free to pop the cork on that "special occasion" wine. Why wait? There is no better occasion than the opportunity to share time with the ones we love!

Note of Interest

Laurel is now sitting on the Durham Region Association of Realtors Board as Director Durham West, as well as Chairperson of the Education Committee.

Deborah has spent numerous years serving the Board well, as a Director, Chairperson and as President.

If you would prefer to receive a copy of our newsletter by e-mail, please notify us at laurelmchale@royalpage.ca and we would be happy to do so!



This is not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale.

2008, 2009

2007, 2010, 2011