RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

FEATURES

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AURORA/KING
VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2





You never get a second chance to make a first impression

Whether or not you are thinking of selling your home, first impressions count. Wouldn't we all love a chance to take back a few first impressions? Have you had potential buyers pull up in front of your home only to stop and then drive away without making a call? Maybe it's time to take matters into your own hands. *Continuted on page 4*





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Here's a real Beauty! Loaded with renovations including gourmet kitchen w/ quartz counters and Stainless Steel Appliances, stunning reno'd bathrooms, 4 large bedrooms, hardwood & granite flooring, custom fireplaces, great finished rec room & more! Super private almost half acre landscaped lot with inground saltwater pool & hot tub & cabana & outdoor bathroom! 3 car garage, tons of parking & quiet dead end court - wow!! call Anita today!

2 ACRES & RENO'D BUNGALOW



Amazing 4 + 1 bedroom Ranch Bungalow JUST LISTED in East Gwillimbury near Sharon! Fabulous renovations throughout including 3 modern bathrooms awesome spacious modern eat-in kitchen w/huge windows & computer nich all new windows in 2019, lovely hardwood floors and reno'd main floor laundy has w/o to garden! Awesome finished recreation room w/large windows, fireplace plus huge workshop area with walk - up!! Just move in and enjoy!



A spectacular and beautifully appointed Century home with gorgeous custom addition - 5 bedrooms & 5 modern bathrooms, walk in closets, hardwood floors, high baseboards, cornice moldings and more! Wonderful family size kitchen wi/sland & huge windows! Many renovations combine so elegantly with all the charm of yesteryear! Large 2 car Garage with loft, and stunning gardens with pond! This should be in "Better Homes & Gardens"! Truly one of a kind!!



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London Publishing Corp.

EASYCLEANINGPROJECTS

WARMER DAYS are here and what better way to spend them than ... cleaning? Although enjoying the great outdoors is probably high on many a to-do list come spring, by the end of winter, homes can probably do with a much-needed overhaul. Owners and renters can rely on temperate days to throw open the windows and engage in some easy spring-cleaning projects. The earlier one begins spring cleaning, the more quickly he or she will be able to head outside and bask in the warm spring sun.

Spring cleaning tasks can be stretched out across several days to make the jobs more manageable. While certain spring cleaning tasks can be time-consuming, many projects can be started and completed in 30 minutes or less.

LOOK UP

Start by looking up at ceilings, molding and ceiling fans. Chances are strong that some cobwebs and dust have formed in these areas. Always begin cleaning by working from the top downward so you don't have to clean any tables countertops or floors twice. Static-charged dusting cloths work well to catch and contain dust. Use a pillowcase on ceiling fan blades to clear the dust and keep it from cascading to the floor.

BLINDS AND CURTAINS

Heavy window treatments can be removed and replaced with more gauzy fabrics. This lets in more light and warmth from the sun. Many curtains can be freshened up right in the laundry, but blinds may require a bit more effort. If the blinds can be snapped out of the brackets, place them in a tub full of vinegar, dish soap and water. Allow them to soak and then rinse with the shower nozzle. Stationary blinds can be cleaned with using an old sock over your hand dipped in a vinegar-and-water solution. CHANGE LINENS

Remove and launder bed linens. While the linens are in the wash, thoroughly dust all furniture and vacuum the carpets. Move furniture so you can reach areas where dust gathers, such as under the bed or dresser.

GROUT CLEANER

Grade school science lessons can be put to use as you look to remove stubborn dirt. Combining baking soda and vinegar produces a reaction that causes the formation of gassy bubbles. These bubbles can help to break up dirt that clings to crevices, such as grout between tiles. Some light scrubbing and then subsequent rinsing can rid surfaces of hard-to-remove dirt.

VACUUM VENT INTAKES

Many houses are heated by forced-air systems. The air intake vents can become clogged with dust and other debris. Vacuum these vents so that air flow is not impeded. Let the heat run for a few minutes to catch any small particles that become dislodged, and then change the furnace filter.

CLEAN OUT THE REFRIGERATOR

Now is a great time to remove any of those mystery containers growing fuzzy experiments in the back of the refrigerator. Take the food out of the refrigerator and use a food-safe cleaner to scour the shelves and inside of crisper drawers.

Spring cleaning is a necessary task, but it doesn't have to be a headache. Break up the work into manageable chunks of time, and projects won't feel like such a hassle.

7 WAYS TO START GETTING ORGANIZED

Becoming more organized is a popular resolution each new year. However, like many resolutions, people's commitment to being more organized tends to wane as February draws near.

Being unorganized can adversely affect productivity, state of mind, motivation, and even happiness. Sixty-seven percent of people surveyed in an Alpha Phi Quarterly study believed they could save up to 30 minutes a day if they were more organized. And a Huffington Post survey determined worrying a home isn't clean enough or organized enough is the fifth most common stress trigger for Americans.

Getting and staying organized requires commitment. Having some handy tips at the ready to facilitate the process can make things go more smoothly.

Determine what organization means to you. Being organized might mean one thing to you and something else entirely to someone else. Some may put form before function. Others may be interested in the aesthetics of a neat-looking space. Once you have a handle on what being organized entails to you, you can get to work.

2 Start with what motivates you most. Perhaps this is a room in the home that has become overrun with clutter. Or maybe it's getting finances organized so you can save for a dream vacation. When you accomplish your biggest goal, the seemingly smaller ones may seem less difficult.

3 Declutter your mind. Think of a busy mind as a computer that has that turning hourglass or spinning color wheel icon when it's stuck on a process. Every application stalls because the computer cannot do everything at once. The same thing can happen in the brain. Sit down and make a to-do list of what's on your mind. Then start prioritizing tasks. This will do wonders to clear your head.

4 Create deadlines for yourself. An open-ended timeline to get things done may promote procrasti-

nation. Deadlines may provide motivation.

5 Avoid distractions. Try to remove as many distractions as possible. When working on a chore, hire a babysitter to look after the children or step away from social media so you can focus on the task at hand. Interruptions only slow you down.

6 Think before you acquire. Once you are organized you may have challenges fitting new items into the mix. If you're getting ready to purchase something new, carefully consider its usefulnesss and determine in advance where it will go, and whether or not you have the space.

7 Be accountable to another. Having help getting organized can mean delegating certain tasks or enlisting someone to check in with you to see if you're on target. Embrace this system of checks and balances.

Becoming organized is a process, but once you get the hang of it, it can be easy to stay organized.





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*Sales Representative **Broker ***Broker of Record





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Cinda Brown*







Spring is upon us and there is not better time to freshen up the exterior of your home. Here are some good old-fashioned tips to help motivate those potential Buyers or maybe just impress the "Jones".

- Edge the gardens and clean out the debris
- Pull weeds and rake the leaves
- Trim overground shrubs. Sometimes removing them all together can make your home more appealing
- Plant some flowers and place some planters by the entrance

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- Clear out the garage of winter clutter
- Dispose of any rusty or broken garden decorations
- Put out a fresh welcome mat

- Paint the window sills, mailbox or anything else that needs refreshing
- Place clear light bulbs in exterior light fixtures
- Reseal the driveway
- Pressure washing decks and walkways is inexpensive and can give them new life
- Repair or replace leaking or saggy gutters and don't forget to remove those Christmas lights!

Now that we've got the Buyers to the front door, let's talk about what's inside. I am sure you have read many top 10 lists of things to do to prepare your home for sale. Inevitably getting rid of clutter is on everyone. This is because it works!

Clutter – a disorganized garage, overstuffed closet or crowded kitchen counter can make people feel uneasy. Try to remove yourself from the

Horizon

Itd B

Realty

picture. Try to imagine yourself as a Buyer and look at things through their eyes.

Some experts suggest putting as much as 30% of your belongings in storage when preparing your home for sale. Although impractical for most people, it does pay to make your home appear more spacious. Consider a storage facility if necessary or perhaps a family members basement. These tips do not cost much and really can help in the sale of your home.

Happy home selling!

HARRY HOARE

Broker of Record

Informations provided by Harry Hoare. Harrys is a licensed real estate Broker with Royal LePage Your Community Realty and can be contacted at 416-213-7209 for ideas and information on selling your home. *Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale.



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Design trends come and go, but some have a funny way of resurfacing years after they first became popular.

HOMEOWNERS who may have been considering renovating their home to remove a design element they believe to be passé might want to see if that feature has experienced a resurgence in popularity. In fact, one of the more derided home decor trends of yesteryear has slowly crept back into style, albeit in moderation.

Wood paneling is back and better than ever, advise many design professionals. It's the formerly ugly duckling that filled homes starting in the 1950s, creating drab dens and faux-wood family rooms.

Paneling had long been an element of choice because it is relatively easy to install and can camouflage problem walls in a home, like those covered in boisterous wallpaper prints.

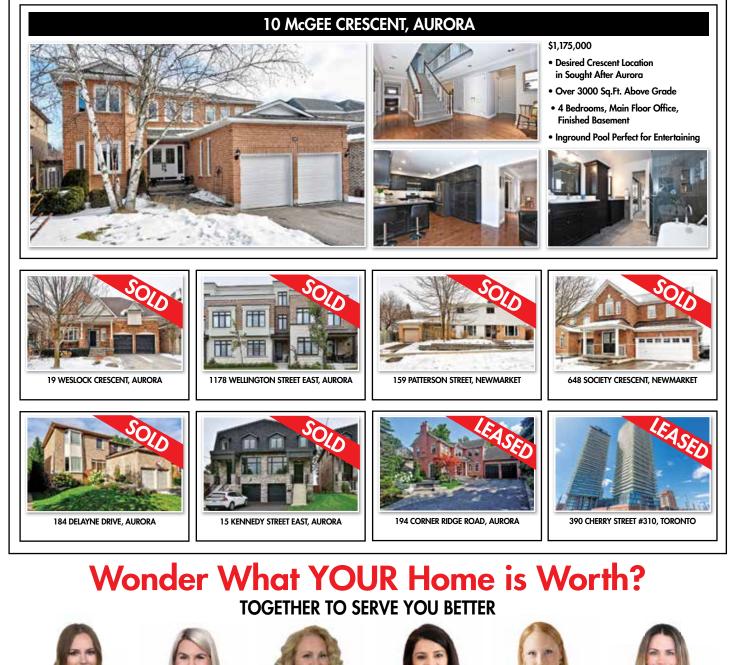
Wood paneling reach the peak of its popularity in the 1970s, and since then homeowners have been tearing down these faux offenders for years or masking them in paint to brighten up spaces. However, the experts at Apartment Therapy report that wood paneling in shades of brown are making a comeback in cozy spots such as dens or studies. The warm tones of wood paneling elicit a retro vibe. But unlike their fake predecessors, today's paneled walls are being outfitted in real wood, making them more eco-friendly and stylish than ever before.

Designers have flocked to reclaimed wood and veneer panelings to incorporate them into design elements. And while wood paneling used to be hung vertically, designers now experiment with hanging paneling.

Many people no longer use paneling to cover an entire space. Paneling is used sparingly as an accent wall or another feature for character. Wood walls can be stained in a rich mahogany to look upscale or be weathered and rustic.

Homeowners ready to re-embrace wood paneling can choose to enhance one wall in a room. Think about the space above a fireplace or a strip of wall behind a sitting chair and side table. Paneling also can serve as a headboard behind a bed in a master suite. Painted horizonally, paneling can add dimension and texture to walls, even in a bathroom.

Wood paneling is slowly making a comeback, proving that no design trend every truly goes away.



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New Value in York Region

anuary statistics were revealed by the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board to reflect 46 sales in Aurora of all home types. If we take out the highest and lowest sale for the month the positive news is the median price of homes rose by 11 per cent to \$835, 000. On average it took about 45 days for homes to sell however some homes that may have been placed on the market more than once took on average 58 days to sell.

There were 91 homes homes placed on the market, a 36 per cent decrease from 2019 and at month end there were 129 homes remaining for sale which was a 32 per cent drop in available selection for Buyer's. At the current rate of buyer demand matching to supply of homes available there are 3.2 months of inventory available which indicates a stronger seller's market.

Across York region there were 747 sales in January which is a 27 per cent improvement. Median & average home values were 9 per cent higher and the there have been 39 per cent less homes available for sale across York region. Buyer demand in York region has caused the number of months of inventory across the region to reflect a Seller's market at 3.2 months of inventory on average.

A Buyer's market remains in King with 9.3 months of inventory. The luxury markets including homes priced above \$2 million dollars have had the least amount of movement however sales have picked up in this category across York over prior year. Twenty homes sold in York region above \$2 Million in areas South of Aurora including Richmond Hill, King, Markham, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

If moving is part of the plan for this new year call a REALTOR® today to discuss the market demand in the neighbourhood, home value assessment and marketing plans that could be the right fit for your home.

- Written by Connie Power

Connie Power is an Assistant Manager and Sales Representative CNE® SRS® ABR® SRES®, for RE/MAX Hallmark York Group Realty Ltd., Brokerage serving York region and beyond in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Empowering you in Real Estate, Call Connie today to make an appointment to discuss your next move at (905) 726-0856.

*The statistics provided herein were obtained from the Toronto Real Estate Board; Regional Housing Market Tables; York Region, Aurora for January of 2019, 2020 and the Summary of Existing Home Transactions of all home types, Jan. 2019 and 2020 for all TREB Areas and Property Days on Market report for January 2020.

***Not intended to solicit those currently under a real estate contract.

Transition smoothly after relocating

People move for various reasons. Some have outgrown their existing homes and need something bigger, while others move to downsize.

Relocating, whether it's around the corner or miles away, affects people's lives in many ways. A smooth transition to a new place involves understanding the process and getting the support necessary to make the move a success.

RESEARCH POTENTIAL DESTINATIONS

Give ample thought to where you might live before uprooting yourself and your family if you have one. The career resource Change Recruitment suggests using the internet as much as possible to learn about the location. Sites like Niche can paint a picture of an area, providing information regarding its demographics, points of interest, schools, and much more. However, an in-person visit will be needed to get a true feel for the neighborhood.

UNDERSTAND THE COSTS

Apart from the fees associated with buying a home, relocating involves hiring movers, unpacking belongings, temporary storage rentals, charges to turn on/off utilities, repairs for the new home, and several other expenses.

If you're moving because of a career opportunity, the company may contribute to some of the moving costs. Check with a human resources professional to determine if the company provides relocation compensation.

GET OUT AND MEET PEOPLE

Use every opportunity to meet neighbors and people with shared interests. Attend community events and/or school functions. Some employers may have meet-and-greet events. Online services like Meetup list groups of like-minded people who may periodically meet up in your community. The sooner you make friends and acquaintances in your new town or city, the more likely you are to feel at home.

With some planning and a little assistance, relocating can go smoothly.

Canada

180 Russell Snider Drive, Nobleton | \$1,828,000

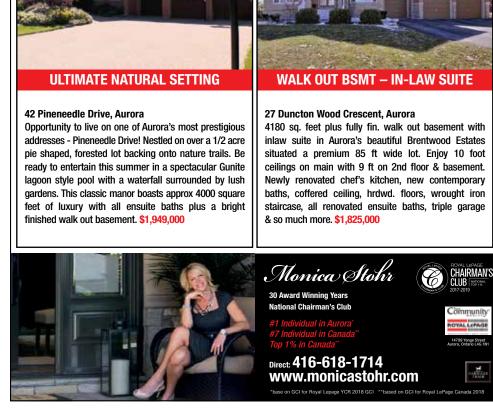


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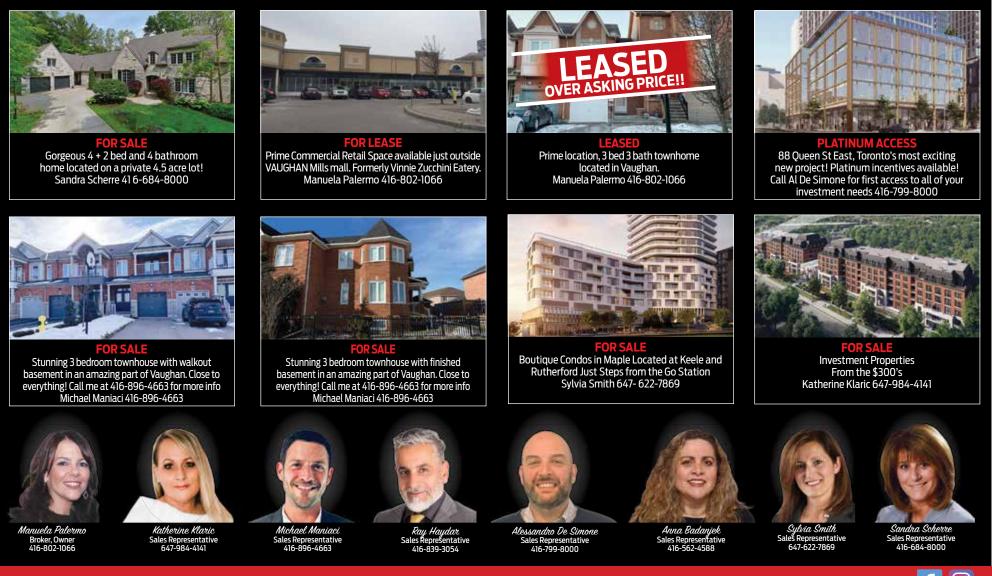
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113 Aubrey Court Sold Within One Week For \$1,050,000. Call For A Free Market Evaluation.

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Ask Big Tuna, The Renovating Realtor



By Julien Laurion The Big Tuna of Real Estate

Dear Julien, a lot of homes that are within our budget have been refreshed or flipped. How do you know if things have been done well? Also, how do you know what is cheap and what was worth more money?

Thank you, #springhousehunting

Hello! House hunting can be stressful but it can also be exciting! When some homes are refreshed some corners are cut, literally.

When I walk through homes, I always look at the corners high and low. A lot of trades or DIYers have trouble with inside and outside corners, especially with tile, engineered and hardwood floors. If you know what you're doing and know your fractions and angles, there are ways you can finish corners beautifully. However, these areas tend to be much harder to cut and install and the attitude of 'that should be fine, no one will ever see this' kicks in and it shows the level of craftsmanship. Also, if you notice a lot of errors in the places you can see, this should raise your suspicion on the areas you cannot. This is where a good home inspector can really come into play!

Why is this important? Areas in the home that are hidden tend to be where shortcuts are used. It is a tell tale sign of the level of craftsmanship that was used. I recently saw the open walls in a bathroom renovation in downtown Toronto where the homeowner found piles of garbage in the walls that the contractor did not bother to dispose of properly. When I was enrolled in my renovation program, the professors repeatedly beat into our brains that a true pro takes pride in the areas that no one can see.

The other aspect to assess when looking at a renovation is the level of finish used. There are many less expensive finishes that look good when first



installed but will not wear well when used in day to day living. This can be difficult to determine because many low cost materials are often engineered to look high-end. For this, you have to use your personal judgement if you feel the level of finish is suitable for you. I recommend that you decide how you like the feel of the door handles, doors, and other items you touch every day and if you're comfortable with how they feel then you are more likely to feel good about the renovation over all.

Spring house hunter, just pay attention to the small details and you will be fine. If you still feel overwhelmed, working with a Realtor like myself who has a lot of renovation experience can be a big help! Cheers, Julien.

Who is Big Tuna, The Renovating Realtor?

Julien Laurion AKA Big Tuna, is a local Real Estate Sale Representative with Royal LePage Your Community Realty in Aurora. I am a real estate agent who has expertise in both Real Estate and Renovations and have been involved in this community for over 20 years. If you have a question for my monthly article or if you are considering buying, selling or leasing a home please feel free to call or email me directly at (416) 402-5530 or julien@bigtuna.ca or by alternatively visiting my website www.bigtuna.ca or Facebook page @bigtunarealty

Learn about DIY home security

Homes are a safe haven and comfortable retreat for individuals and families.

Home invasions can compromise that feeling of safety and security, making people feel uncomfortable and unsafe in their own homes.

Although the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics indicate property crime rates have seen a significant decline in the last few years, there are still roughly 2.5 million burglaries a year, 66 percent of which involve home break-ins. Break-ins are 6 percent more likely to occur between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., when people are out at work or running errands than at other times of day. Homes without a security system are 300 percent more likely to be burglarized, according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security.

Installing a security system may be the goal of homeowners looking to protect themselves and their belongings. Thanks to availability of new, user-friendly products, do-it-yourselfers can, in many instances, install their own home security systems.

Safety.com says smart home integration, mobile apps and wireless connectivity are hallmarks of modern DIY home security systems. Many have the same components as traditional home security systems, but do not require professional installation or monitoring, even though such options are available.

When shopping for home security systems, people can look for the following features to compare offerings.

SENSORS: Sensors will detect motion and activity in the house. Sensors also may be attached to doors and windows to determine if either are open. Some systems are designed to send alerts to a phone when triggered.

CAMERAS: Working in conjunction with sensors, cameras can provide an eye on activity in and outside of a home, adding another layer of protection.

SMART FEATURES: With smart home connectivity, security systems can be engaged and turned off from remote locations.

Many DIY versions of home security systems work wirelessly and can be set up in a relatively short period of time. While wired systems use existing electric and



telephone lines to connect security components, wireless systems connect components to a main panel via radio frequency. One of the benefits of wireless tech is that it enables DIYers to add components and replace them as needed without major hassle. In addition, wireless security systems do not require construction during the installation process.

More and more homeowners are embracing DIY home security systems to keep their homes safe.





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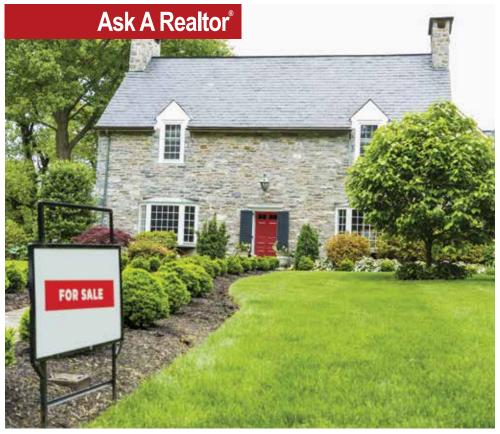
Do it yourself, Doesn't Mean Do it Alone. Here's How. 289 Wellington St. E., Aurora

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10 RESALE HOMES COLLECTION | FEBRUARY 2020 AURORA/KING

Come and see

the difference



We've been looking at the market for a while and it seems like there are less for sale signs than last year, should we wait until the Spring to sell or buy?

n many parts of the Greater Toronto Area home sales are up compared to last year and with this demand sales competition is on the rise due to lower availability of homes for sale to choose from. The mild winter is causing analysts to forecast an early Spring real estate market and further evidence has been experienced by agents reporting a return to multiple offers on all home types. Across York region there are only 3.2 months of inventory available to meet the current demand of Buyer's; so selling hasn't looked this attractive in a while.

Best advice would be to prepare now to be market ready to sell. Clean up as much as possible outside on weather permitting days and plan exterior maintenance as the weather improves; paying attention to the outdoors will improve curb appeal. Pretend you've already sold the home and start eliminations, purging, organizing, decluttering and donating as much as possible. When the home sells everything will need to be moved, so starting in advance is prudent to reduce the workload before the official move out date. Space sells and no REALTORS[®] have ever been told to look for homes with clutter as a selling feature.

As the days grow longer many crave to be in spaces that are bright and airy. Consider improv-

ing lighting throughout every room in the home. If walls are dark, it may be the best time to pint the entire home a light and neutral shade of griege, beige or grey. Remove dark window coverings and let natural light shine in.

It's not personal when stagers and REALTORS* suggest to depersonalize a home. Collectables can be priceless and so it may be best that they are removed for security. When a Buyer looks at a home for sale but is constantly presented with visual stops of photos, collectables or debris, their mind may shift from the task at hand of qualifying the home as an option to purchase to being distracted and just imagining others living there only.

Call a professional real estate sales representative or Broker today to discuss the best ways to shine a spotlight on making your home market worthy before the home is placed for sale.

Written by Connie Power

Connie Power is the Assistant Manager, Sales Representative CNE® SRS® ABR® SRES® for RE/MAX Hallmark York Group Realty Ltd., Brokerage serving York region and beyond in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Empowering you in Real Estate, Call Connie today to make an appointment to discuss your next move at (905) 726-0856. A name you know... people you trust!









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\$7,299,000



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WHAT'S YOUR HOME WORTH? Call us for a complimentary Market Value Assessment