RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

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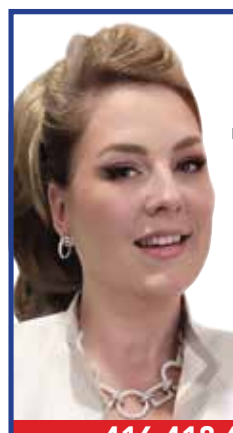
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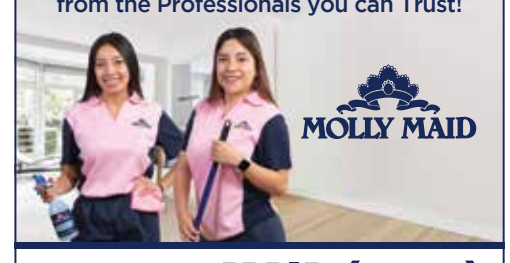
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SUSAN ZACCHIGNA

Reaching out and connecting people for a better community

"I'm a connector," is how Susan Zacchigna of the Zacchigna Team GTA - Re/Max West describes her role as a real estate agent and how it relates to her involvement in community events and everyday life.

"I love meeting people. I talk to strangers. If they look like they are having a bad day I'll go up to them and speak to them and try to turn their day around so they can see the positive side of things."

Associated with RE/MAX West Realty Inc., Susan has been a realtor for over 20 years and became involved in the industry through her husband, Dave, who was already a licensed real estate agent for over 30 years.

Susan transitioned to the world of real estate after a long and successful career in the fashion industry at Harry Rosen where she learned a lot about business as well as ten years working as an office manager in a manufacturing company.

She inherited her work ethic from her father, a very accomplished man, who taught her the value of work and how it translates to helping society in general.

As a professional, reliable, and trusted real estate agent, Susan has the opportunity to meet many different people over the course of a year, and enjoys turning those meetings into something positive when the occasion arises.

She has become involved with several notable groups who do rewarding work in communities around the region.

"My passion is volunteering," Susan explained. "I've been a volunteer all my life. Volunteers are what make the world go-round. TUFF Therapeutic Riding for Youth at Risk is a registered charity affiliated with Covenant House in Toronto. This is a farm in Loretto called Jewel View, and they have an indoor riding arena where they hold their annual Designer Clothing Sale for Ladies, Men and Children. They have retired RCMP horses and retired Ottawa Police horses. I am the connector. I connect everyone I know to their valuable work."

Susan spent considerable time helping TUFF with delivering flyers to promote the program with her own advertising campaign. The team at the farm refers to her as "the one and only Susan" because of her unique dedication. She is like a social butterfly. She dresses in Vintage wear purchased from TUFF and tells their story to anyone that listens.

Susan's actions also benefit SickKids Hospital in Toronto where she uses her knowledge of people to connect various people to the hospital and its services. She is well liked and friendly with staff at the hospital. She introduced Dr. Ronald Cohn President & CEO of SickKids to one of the most rarest diseased children in the world who happens to be her relation.

"I'm a huge supporter of SickKids," Susan said. "I've spent many days at SickKids Hospital – that's a whole other chapter of my life."

While Susan has a busy career as a successful real estate agent, she doesn't just focus on real estate transactions and the business of buying and selling property. Susan meets and interacts with a lot of people over the course of a year. She uses her knowledge and networking skills to promote good causes and be active in the communities that support her.





Her qualities as a 'connector' allow her to reach out to different people and organizations who appreciate her ability to bring them together.

By combining her professional life with her altruistic goals of helping other people, Susan contributes to the betterment of both other individuals and organizations who appreciate her networking skills and organizational help.

Susan and Dave are not only experienced realtors, they also have first hand experience with renovations, having completed several themselves, and enjoy passing their experience and knowledge to clients. "We built our second home – we built it with our own hands," Susan explained.

As a real estate agent, Susan works with her team, Zacchigna Team GTA with Dave and daughter Stephanie.

Dave is experienced in construction and renovation and understands what can be accomplished when renovating a home. He passes on his experience to clients.

Stephanie is a broker and real estate agent and focuses on procedures and the details needed to successfully complete a real estate transaction.

"With our team, you get three realtors for the price of one," Susan explained. "You have all the facets of our team available. We're honest people and every single person we meet who wants us to represent them, we treat them like family."

As proud members of the community, Team GTA gives back to the community they call home. They participated in the King Proud Charity Golf Challenge and admire the dedication of Brent Morning, a 'lifer in King Township'!!!

In addition, they donated 250 Talii Towels masks to the King Emergency Fire Services with the KEFS logo to help keep King Township firefighters safe during COVID.

Susan and the Zacchigna Team GTA have gained the trust of several generations of clients who refer family and friends to them when it is time to buy or sell their home.

Known as highly professional, reliable, and trusted realtors, they can help you achieve your real estate goals and help guide you through the entire transaction for a stress-free experience.

You can learn more by visiting the website at WWW.TEAMGTA.COM

Susan may be reached at 416-399-1050.

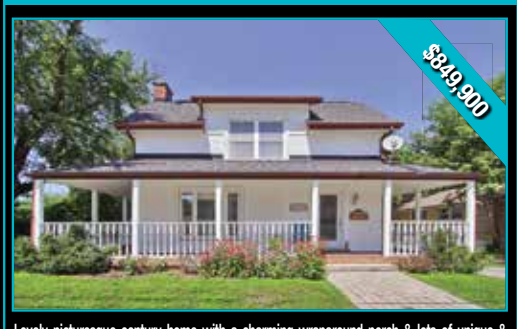
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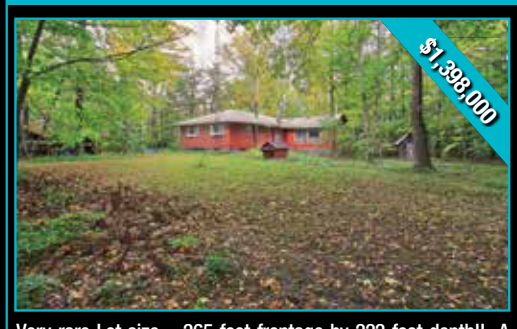
Absolutely one-of-a-kind newly built 3 year old custom home with so many unique custom features! Huge spectacular gourmet kitchen is open to living & dining room with a stunning staircase and office nook! 3+2 bedrooms and 4 luxurious bathrooms plus a super basement in-law apartment! Fabulous wall & ceiling decorator mouldings & finishes! Incredible rooftop garden with panoramic lake and marina views – wow!! Walk to Frenchman's Bay beach & boutique stores in Pickering! Minutes to GO and Hwy 401! This one has to be seen!

ATTENTION INVESTORS - 'OLDE' NEWMARKET!!



Lovely picturesque century home with a charming wraparound porch & lots of unique & delightful features: wide oak hardwood flooring, pine accents, some handsome moulded ceilings, 2 great separate apartments w/private entrances - each with their own laundry! Wonderful dependable tenant can stay or go. Property shows very well - note the lot size & extra large frontage! Main floor unit has family room with a fireplace & w/o to deck. Both units have 2 bedrooms, private washroom & full kitchen facilities. Fabulous location, walk to Main Street boutique stores, restaurants, Fairy Lake - just minutes to Hwy 404 access & GO train!

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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS



DOWNSIZING IS ABOUT MORE THAN MOVING - it's about planning what comes next

For many people, home is much more than four walls and a roof. It is where children were raised, holidays were celebrated, friends gathered around the table and decades of memories were made.

THAT EMOTIONAL CONNECTION is one of the reasons downsizing can feel like such a big decision.

At the same time, there may come a point when the home that once fit your life perfectly no longer fits the way you live today.

Perhaps you now use only a few rooms. Maybe the stairs are becoming less convenient, the yard takes more time than you want to give it, or the ongoing maintenance inside and outside the home feels more like a burden than a pleasure.

Downsizing does not mean giving something up. In many cases, it means creating more freedom, more flexibility and a lifestyle that better reflects what you want from the years ahead.

That is why we believe successful downsizing should involve much more than simply selling a property.

We have partnered with highly experienced professionals at RBD Dominion Securities, The Cooperators and Money to Close who can help guide our clients through many different aspects of the downsizing process. This includes real estate, financial planning, investment strategies, tax considerations, estate planning and the practical steps involved in moving from one home to another.

For many longtime homeowners, the equity in their property represents a significant portion of their wealth. Once a home is sold and a new living arrangement has been established, an important question becomes: what should happen with the remaining proceeds?

Depending on your individual circumstances, those funds may be used to create an ongoing source of income through carefully planned investments. They may also form an important part of your estate plan.

Working with qualified financial, tax and estate-planning professionals can help you understand the options available to you, including strategies designed to manage taxes, preserve wealth and structure assets efficiently for your beneficiaries.

The goal is not simply to sell a home. It is to look at the whole picture.

Where do you want to live? How much space do you really need? What type of lifestyle do you want? How much money should remain accessible? Could part of the proceeds provide income? How should your estate be structured? What costs should be anticipated when selling and moving?

These are important questions, and they deserve thoughtful answers.

To help make the process easier, we created our **Downsizer's Guide**, which walks homeowners through downsizing step by step. It includes practical information, questions to consider and resources that can help you begin making a plan at your own pace.

There is no pressure and no requirement to move.

Sometimes the most valuable first step is simply becoming informed.

We also host **Downsizer's Information Sessions**, where we bring together real estate and financial professionals to discuss the downsizing process, financial options, estate and tax considerations, investment strategies and the money required to successfully complete a move.

These sessions are designed to be informative, relaxed and supportive. They give homeowners an opportunity to ask questions, hear from experienced professionals and better understand the choices available to them before making any major decisions.

If you have started wondering whether your current home still suits your lifestyle, this may be the perfect time to begin exploring your options.

You can download a complimentary copy of our Downsizer's Guide, or contact us to add your name to the invitation list for our next Downsizer's Information Session.

You do not need to have a move planned.
You simply need to be curious about what your next chapter could look like.

For your complimentary **Downsizer's Guide** or to join our next information session, contact:

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Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd.
416-433-8316
michele@micheledenniston.com
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WRITTEN BY: The Michele Denniston Real Estate Team

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Spectacular, custom-renovated residence located in Aurora's highly coveted Barclay Estates, tucked against a .66 acre lush backdrop of mature trees and neighbourhood nature trails. Stunning open concept design with natural organic feel connected by white oak hrdwd floors, chef inspired kitchen with 9 ft island & views of sun-drenched rear yard & pool. Large mudroom with heated floors and built ins, 4 bedrooms with 3 new gorgeous ensuite baths. Bright finished walkout basement ready for multi-generational living features rec room, games area or lounge with wet bar, 5th bedroom (or home gym) with walk out+ 3-piece bath with secondary laundry hook up. Private resort style backyard oasis boasts a huge pool, poolside cabana with TV outlet & 2 change rooms, covered lower patio with expansive upper deck above & grass areas for kids & pets. **$2,498,000**

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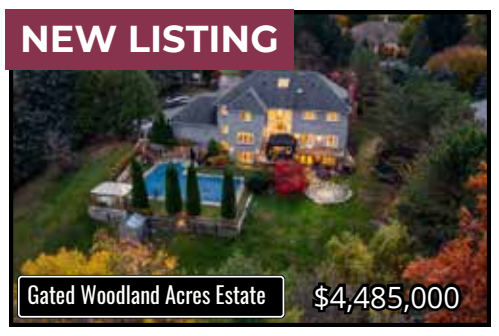
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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

THE BENEFITS OF HIRING holiday decorators



Many holiday celebrants aspire to transform their homes into picture perfect representations of festive wonderlands. Stringing lights and hanging wreaths is a cherished tradition for many people, but others may find decorating too tall an order.

Homeowners with mobility issues or busy schedules that don't allow time to decorate can look to decoration professionals to turn their homes into winter wonderlands. In fact, entrusting seasonal decorating to a pro offers a wide range of benefits.

PRIORITIZES SAFETY

Emergency rooms treat thousands of injuries each year tied to holiday decorating accidents, according to Outdoor Lighting. These accidents primarily involve falls from ladders and electrical mishaps. Scaling steep rooflines, navigating icy surfaces and balancing heavy garlands on high ceilings can carry significant risk. Professional installers use industrial-grade safety gear and have extensive experience and training. Their fully insured crews know how to get the job done safely and quickly.

CREATES A HIGH-END DESIGN

Professional installers can achieve a high-end design. Rather than do-it-yourself techniques, which may be comprised of mismatched and store-bought ornaments, the company Illuminating Design says professional designers bring commercial-grade LED materials, custom-fit items and balanced colour palettes. They can tailor the installation to a home's architecture to accentuate structural features, landscaping and interior spaces. This polished display might be hard to replicate with off-the-shelf items.

SAVES TIME

The weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's tend to fly by. Between hosting gatherings, shopping for gifts and managing work deadlines for the end of the year, there may not be a lot of time for outfitting a home with holiday finery. Professional decorators can handle the entire setup efficiently, sometimes in a single morning. Full-service outfits may handle any maintenance, post-season takedown and even off-season storage, further taking the pressure off of busy homeowners.

LOWERS STRESS

Perhaps the biggest benefit of hiring professional decorators is eliminating the added stress that comes from decorating and maintaining the look. Installation services can handle blown fuses or dead bulbs, and may provide prompt maintenance if a storm knocks something down, according to Decorating Elves. Pros also handle the tedious task of removing displays when it's time to bid adieu to the season.

Delegating holiday decor to a professional can replace a less than enjoyable task with extra enjoyment. Homeowners get to step directly into a festive atmosphere without having to climb a ladder.



MARKET UPDATE – OCTOBER 2026

AURORA	KING
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	AVERAGE SALES PRICE
$1,170,302	$1,840,060
AVERAGE 57 DAYS ON MARKET	AVERAGE 73 DAYS ON MARKET
NUMBER OF SALES	NUMBER OF SALES
50	28
164 NEW LISTINGS	110 NEW LISTINGS
SALE TO LIST RATIO	SALE TO LIST RATIO
98%	92%
YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE	YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE
-7.37%	9.36%

*The statistics provided were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's Market Watch OCTOBER 2026; Summary of Existing Home Transactions for All Home Types, OCTOBER 2026 + MLS Home Price Index for Composite, OCTOBER 2026 for York Region's Aurora and King

York Region saw more homes sell in October than in September, while the average sale price was still 7.5% below last October. With about five months of inventory, buyers still had room to compare their options.

October at a glance:
1,038 homes sold, up 16.2% from September and down 1.1% from a year ago.
$1,142,789 average sale price, up 0.5% from September and down 7.5% from a year ago.
4,932 active listings at the end of October, down 10.1% from a year ago.

If you're buying, we'll look at what similar homes have sold for in the neighbourhoods you like. When you find a home you want to make an offer on, we'll help you see where there may be room to negotiate, whether that's on price or a closing date that works for you.

If you're selling, we'll look at recent sales and the homes buyers will be comparing yours with. Together, we'll set an asking price and decide what prep is worth doing so your home is ready for its first weekend on the market.

Curious what these numbers mean for your home or the neighbourhood you're watching?
The Key Advantage Team is always here as a resource.

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$599,000



52 DRURY LANE, BARRIE
$2600/MONTH

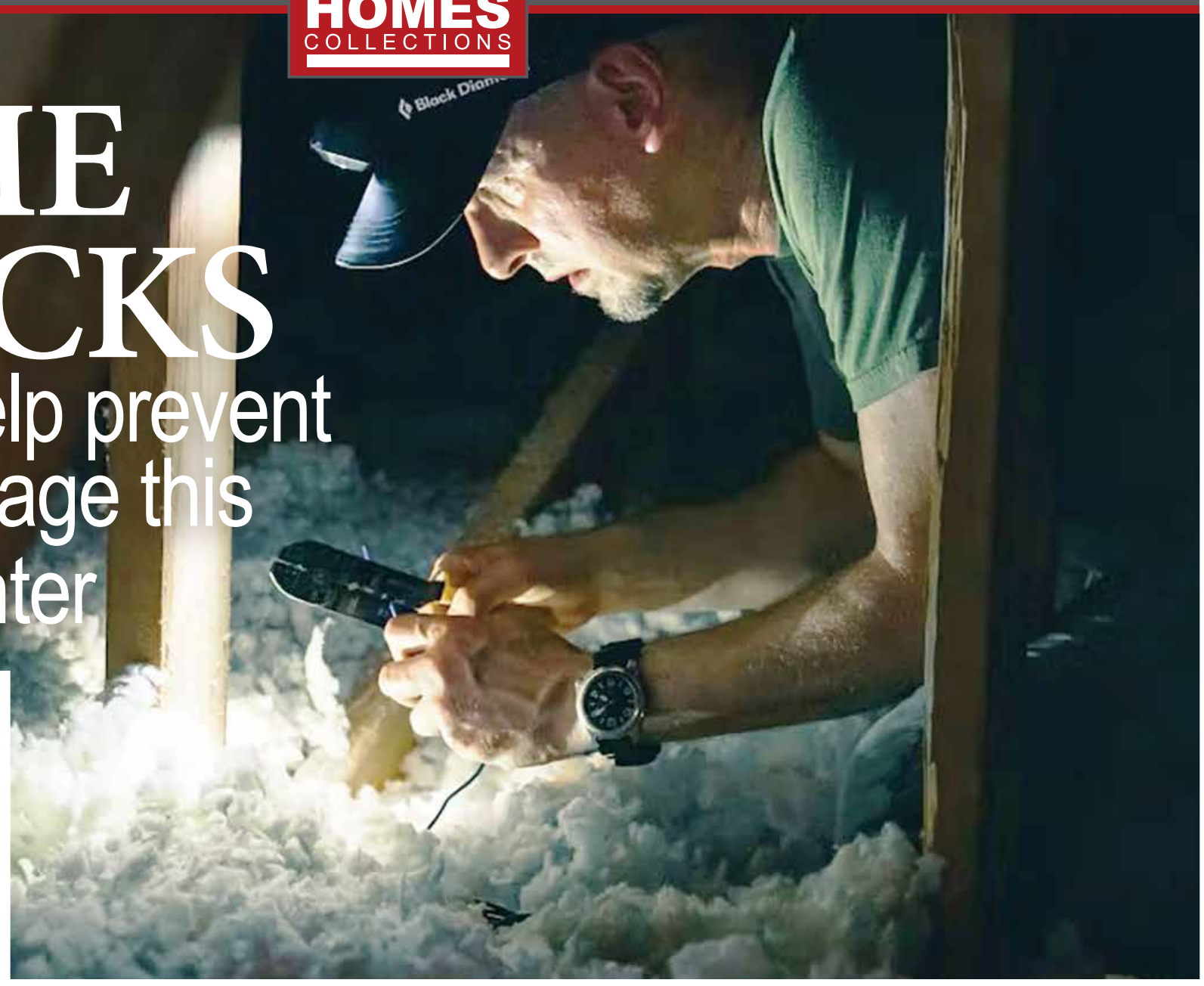


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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

HOME CHECKS that can help prevent costly damage this fall and winter



(NC) As a homeowner, you know how important home maintenance is. And the truth is that sometimes the small maintenance actions are the ones that deserve the most attention.

"Being prepared is your best defense against changing weather. That includes addressing key areas around your home such as poor water drainage, ventilation problems and damaged roofing before they turn into major repairs," said Mel Wright, vice president and head of Intact Insurance's prevention program. "A quick seasonal walkthrough can help keep your home safer as the weather becomes more extreme."

Here are three important checks to perform around your home to make sure you're prepared:

1 WATER SHOULD DRAIN AWAY FROM YOUR FOUNDATION

If water pools around the foundation and doesn't drain properly, it could lead to cracks over time. This could lead to basement flooding and may even contribute to structural shifting of your home. It's essential that water drains away from your home. You can install window wells and covers, make sure the grading around your home slopes away and that your downspouts empty two metres or more from your foundation.

2 PREPARE YOUR ATTIC FOR COLD TEMPERATURES.

It's important to verify that your attic is well-insulated and vented this season. When warm air leaks into an under-insulated attic, it creates a cycle of melting and refreezing snow on the roof. These "ice dams" block drainage, damaging roofing materials and eventually cause leakage into the house. Throughout the winter, stay vigilant by clearing heavy snow and watching for signs of frost in the attic.

3 INSPECT YOUR ROOF FLASHING AND SEALS

Any fixture that goes through your roof, such as a chimneys, skylights or vents, relies on a metal or synthetic seal called "flashing" to stay watertight. Even tiny gaps in flashing can lead to major leaks. Perform an annual inspection to patch damaged flashing and replace loose shingles before the fall rains and winter snow arrive.

The best fix for damage to your home is to help prevent it before it can happen. By staying vigilant and on top of drainage, vents and roof sealing, you can rest much easier, no matter what the weather throws at your home. Find more prevention tips at keepitintact.ca.

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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS



Making room for the Christmas Tree



By Julien Laurion
Real Estate

Somewhere in Aurora this month, someone is going to carry a Christmas tree into the living room, stand it in the usual corner and hear, "Then where are you going to put the chair?" And just like that, a perfectly pleasant Saturday becomes a furniture-moving exercise involving two adults, one tape measure and a child who preferred it the first way.

I think November is a great time to figure out what you'd change about your house. Bring in one extra thing or invite a few more people over and you learn quite a bit about a room you thought you knew inside out.

Take the front hall. On an ordinary Tuesday, you can kick off your boots and step around them. Have another family over and suddenly a kid in wet socks is hopping on one foot while someone tries to swing the closet door past six pairs of boots. Before you start pricing out a bigger entryway, open that closet. If you're still storing three spring jackets per person in there, you might already own the extra space you want. A low hook the kids can reach might earn its keep by dinner.

Then there's the kitchen. You could have seating for twelve in the next room and your favourite people would still gather in front of the drawer that holds the oven mitts. Next time, try putting the drinks and snacks at the far end of the dining table. If that frees up the kitchen, you've solved a hosting problem for the price of a bowl of chips. If you and your spouse still can't make breakfast together on a quiet Sunday, that's worth mentioning when you sit down with a contractor. Tell me which drawer you were trying to open. That's the detail I can design around.

Of course, someone eventually has to set the table. This is when the extra leaf comes out of the basement and everyone learns which relative has been assigned the seat against the wall. If you've ever had to excuse four people so you could get up for the gravy, you understand why I carry a tape measure on showings. Measure your dining table with the leaf in. Then pull out a chair and measure again. That second number tells you whether Uncle Dave can get himself another helping.

Back in the living room, give the chair a fair trial in its new spot. Sit in it after the kids have gone to bed. Maybe you can finally talk to the person on the couch without turning sideways. Maybe the lamp is in exactly the right place to read a few pages. By January you might decide the chair can stay. You might also discover it's directly in the dog's route to the back door. Either way, you got to try a different layout for free.

On a house tour, I like the Christmas tree question for the same reason. Picture your own slightly-too-big tree by the window, then picture yourself on the couch with a coffee. Can you still get past the armchair? Where would the kids sit to hang the ornaments on the bottom branches? Now you're picturing your family living there.

While you're there, give a little thought to January, too. A basement with plenty of storage sounds great until you picture yourself steering a seven-foot tree box around a tight turn on the stairs. Open the storage-room door. Look at the turn. Ask where you'd keep the box if it had to live upstairs. It's an oddly specific thing to do at a showing, but so is buying a house and discovering that your Christmas tree gets half the guest room for eleven months of the year.

My November advice? Take a photo once you finally get the furniture where you like it. Next year, when someone asks where the chair goes, you can pull out your phone. Whether your family accepts photographic evidence is another matter.

Julien Laurion
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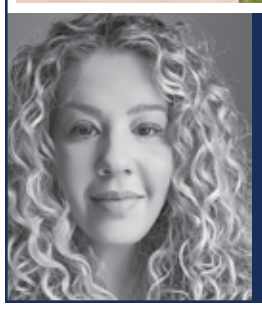


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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

Family winter prep: Keep your home cozy and safe

(NC) Winter weather can bring everything from icy drafts to unexpected power outages, but winter safety is a family affair. With a few simple steps, you can keep your home warm and your loved ones protected.

START WITH EDUCATION

Teach everyone in the home what natural gas smells like (similar to rotten eggs) and what to do if they detect it. Everyone should know to leave the house immediately and call the gas utility from a safe location.

FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY

Keep heating vents clear of furniture, rugs and toys to ensure warm air circulates properly. Blocked vents can cause uneven heating in your home and strain on your furnace because it has to work harder to keep your home warm.On sunny days, open curtains to let natural light help warm your home. Close vents and doors in unused rooms to save energy. Draft stoppers can help seal off spaces like guest bedrooms or basements.

STAY ON TOP OF OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE

Make sure your natural gas meter and appliance vents are clear of snow and ice. Use a broom to gently remove buildup and avoid damaging the equipment."Winter safety is a family affair," says Chris Minor, an operations manager at Enbridge Gas. "From heating and hot water to cooking and laundry, natural gas plays a key role in your home's comfort. Teaching your family about natural gas safety and keeping your meter clear are simple ways to help protect your household all season long."

CREATE A WINTER SAFETY CHECKLIST WITH YOUR KIDS

Involve your kids in the testing of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms so they're aware of what it sounds like in the event of a CO emergency. Create and review a safety plan with your children, share the appropriate emergency contacts with them and review what to do in case of a power outage or gas leak.

By having a plan in place and following some regular maintenance, you can have some peace of mind in keeping your family safe and warm during the winter. You can find more family safety tips at enbridgegas.com/safety.

www.newscanada.com



Protect your home FROM THESE 3 extreme weather risks

(NC) Canadians have never been strangers to harsh weather. But recent years have seen a rise in intense storms, flooding and wildfires across the country.

"The truth is that extreme weather events are becoming more common, and it's putting Canadian households at risk," said Mel Wright, vice president and head of Intact Insurance's prevention program, which educates homeowners on making their properties climate-ready. "Being prepared is your best defence, and there are things you can start doing around the house today to help protect it."

Here are steps you can take to be better prepared for three of the most frequent extreme weather events:

FLOODING

It's the most common and expensive natural disaster in the country, according to Public Safety Canada. Flooding can cause lasting damage to your home, especially the foundation. The key to flood preparedness is managing how water drains.

• Make sure to clean your gutters and eavestroughs regularly—even small amounts of debris can quickly become a blockage.

• Verify that your downspouts empty out at least six feet from your foundation.

• Set up a schedule to clean out your backwater valve and test your sump pump twice a year. If you don't have a sump pump and backwater valve installed in your basement or crawl space, consider installing them.

WILDFIRE

In the event of a fire, your home's roof is at greatest risk: embers and sparks can float through the air and land there, where they can be harder to see and can ignite some roofing materials.

• Installing shingles made from Class A roofing materials like cement fibre, asphalt or metal can help slow or prevent your roof from igniting.

• It's also important to create a fire break around your home—a gap where there's no combustible material. Clear anything flammable, such as mulch, plants or firewood, from an area at least 1.5 metres from the exterior walls. If you can, clear any evergreen trees, such as pines, for at least 10 metres around your home. These types of trees are much more flammable than others.

STORMS AND STRONG WINDS

The biggest danger from strong winds is what might be blowing around.

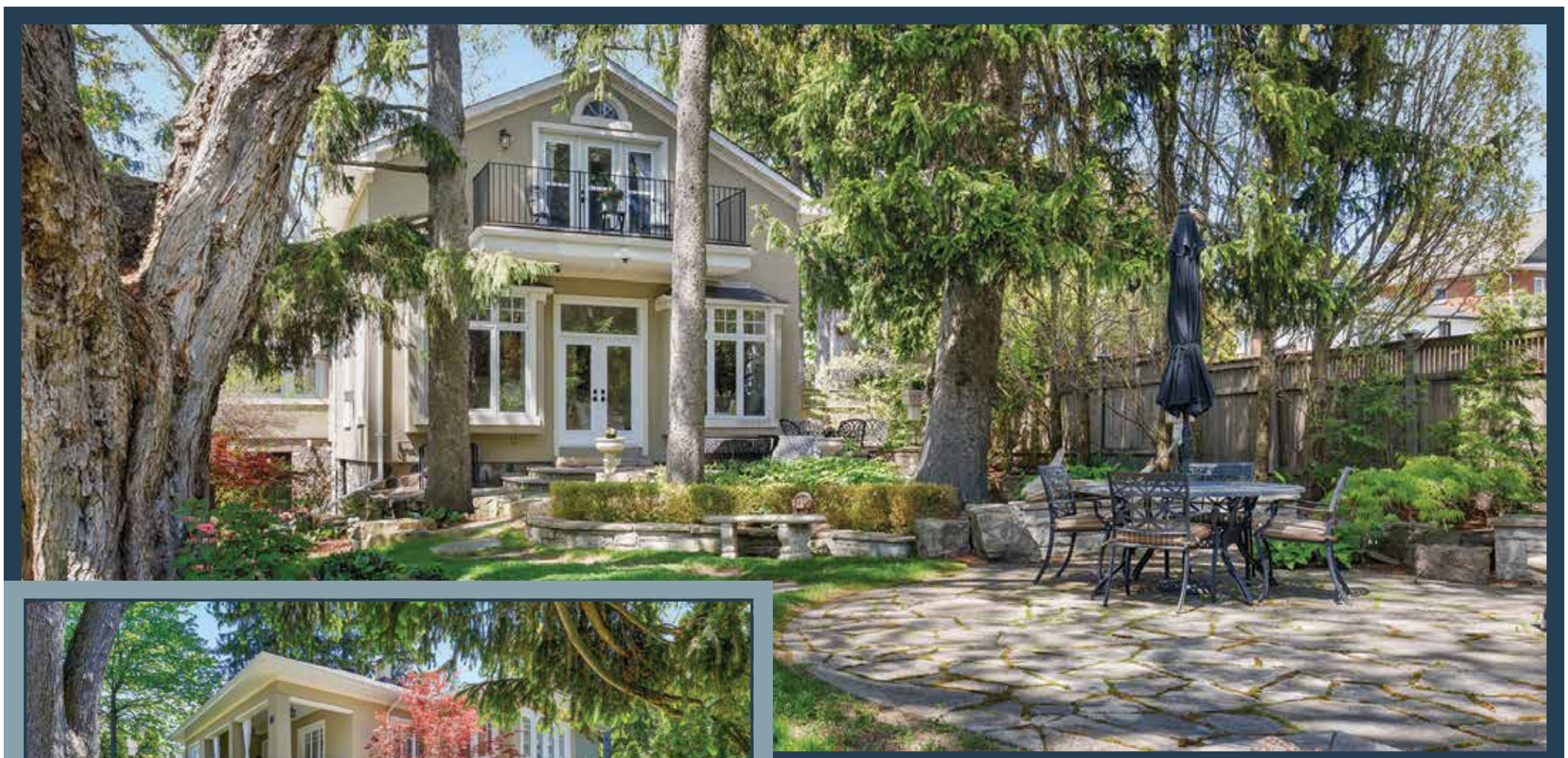
• Make sure to secure any outdoor furniture and other objects, such as bird feeders or barbeques, to keep them from flying off, falling over or damaging your home.

• Switch your gardening and landscaping materials to something soft like soil, as opposed to stones, because strong winds can pick up heavier objects than you'd expect.

• Consider fortifying your doors and sealing exterior gaps and cracks in walls, as well as around pipes and fixtures.

Simple upgrades and home maintenance can go a long way in keeping your home protected. Learn more about preparing for extreme weather at keepitintact.ca.

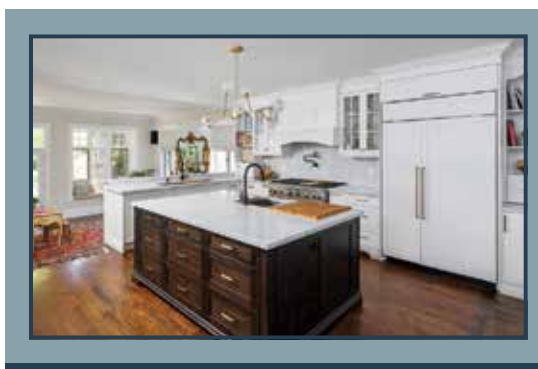
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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS



Tech upgrades for your home entertainment space

Life in the twenty-first century can feel like it's moving at breakneck speed.

Perhaps nowhere is that feeling more pronounced than within the technology sector, where new products are often upstaged by more advanced models, sometimes within a few weeks of an item's initial release.

The speed with which technology advances can make it difficult to keep up. However, it's important to note that software updates can bring devices up to speed in a matter of minutes, often at no cost to users. That can quiet concerns some may have about investing in entertainment room technology. For those ready to move forward with their entertainment room remodel, these tech upgrades can take such spaces to the next level.

NEW TELEVISION

Consumers who like to watch television but are not necessarily into what makes certain televisions more suitable to their viewing habits than others may find their heads spinning when they begin their search for a new device. Indeed, the alphabet soup of OLED, QLED, 4K, and other television styles can be difficult to navigate. If confusion reigns over your television shopping trips, it might help to identify what you watch most often and then find the type of TV that most suits your viewing habits. Though opinions vary and consumers should always trust their own eyes, the United Kingdom-based Smart Home Sounds recommends OLED televisions for movie and television lovers as well as gamers who require fast response times. Sports fans may benefit by prioritizing refresh rate when shopping for a new television. Though refresh rate is not the only variable to consider, a faster refresh rate can ensure games don't look fuzzy when the action picks up.

SPEAKER SYSTEM

Surround sound can take any entertainment setup to the next level. Modern televisions are slim and that sleek design does not always translate to great built-in sound. Though some recent models feature dramatically improved built-in sound capabilities compared to their slim screen ancestors, a home theatre system featuring superior sound is still a must. A home theatre surround sound system with subwoofer and Bluetooth connectivity can greatly improve the viewing experience no matter what's on-screen. For consumers working on a tight budget, a soundbar that can be upgraded with additional surround sound speakers down the road can be a great way to slowly build a theatre-like sound system in your living room. When purchasing a surround sound system, consumers also can consider speaker stands that hold larger rear speakers in place.

LIGHTING

Entertainment room lighting can be easy to overlook, particularly when consumers go down the television and sound system rabbit holes. But the right lighting can set the perfect tone in an entertainment room. The decision of which lighting to go with should include consideration of how the space will (or won't) be used when you aren't watching the latest blockbuster or big game. If the room is exclusively for movies or big games, then lighting that calls to mind a movie theatre, complete with LED strip lights on the walls, is an option worth considering. If the entertaining space is your living room and a space where you're just as likely to read a book as enjoy a family movie night, then recessed lighting in the ceiling with dimmable bulbs allows you to pivot back and forth between lighting schemes depending on how the room is being used at any given moment.

It's easy to get lost when considering tech upgrades for an entertainment room. But pairing the right television with great sound and appropriate lighting can make for a consistently impressive viewing experience.

Electrical safety strategies to emphasize throughout your home

Many electrical fires are preventable. Various preventive measures can be taken to reduce the risk of electrical fires and safeguard a home's residents should such fires occur.

- **AUDIT YOUR HOME ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.** A thorough inspection conducted by a qualified electrician to ensure that all electrical work in the home meets the safety provisions in the NEC can uncover any potential issues that might increase the risk of an electrical fire. Homeowners also can periodically conduct a basic assessment of your home electrical system, electrical cords, extension cords, power plugs, and outlets.
- **INSTALL SMOKE DETECTORS ON EVERY LEVEL OF THE HOME.** The ESFI recommends installing smoke detectors inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- **CONSIDER ELECTRICAL UPGRADES.** Ask a qualified electrician if your home would benefit from AFCI protection, especially during inspections of older homes or upgrades to electrical systems. These advanced new safety devices recognize dangerous conditions that are not detected by standard breakers.
- **ROUTINELY INSPECT FIRE WARNING SYSTEMS.** Test smoke detectors and AFCIs monthly to ensure that they are working properly.
- **DESIGN AND SHARE A PLAN TO ESCAPE TO SAFETY.** Establish an evacuation plan that can be used in case of an emergency, and practice evacuating with your family frequently enough that everyone knows exactly what to do should a fire occur.
- **ADHERE TO MANUFACTURER INSTRUCTIONS IN RELATION TO LIGHTING FIXTURES.** Always use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the light fixture.
- **CHILDPROOF A HOME TO AVOID ELECTRICAL ACCIDENTS.** In homes with young children, install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent electrical shocks and burns.
- **LEARN TO SPOT THE SIGNS OF A SYSTEM IN TROUBLE.** Telltale signs of electrical problems include dim and flickering lights, unusual sizzling and buzzing sounds, and circuit breakers that trip repeatedly. Contact a qualified electrician immediately if any such signs appear.
- **REDUCE RELIANCE ON EXTENSION CORDS.** Use extension cords only temporarily, and never use them to power space heaters or air conditioners.
- **AVOID OVERLOADING OUTLETS.** Consider having additional circuits or outlets installed by a qualified electrician as needed.

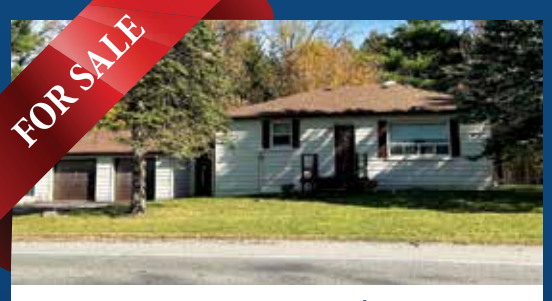
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