



# REAL ESTATE CORNER

By Lynn and John Drewry



## WHAT IS A SENIOR?

The word "senior" is kind of a catch-all term depending on the perspective of the user of the word. To a "teen or twenty something" person, a senior might be anyone over the age of thirty. As we get older our concept of "senior" changes. When we are 60 a senior is someone over 70. And so on. Only the mirror knows for sure.

When applied to housing and real estate the term "senior" actually refers to a process people follow as they get older and shed responsibilities for their children. It used to be that the kids could not wait to get out of the house and now they stay longer or even come back after moving out. That is a subject for another story.

To most of us you almost become a senior when you find yourself an "empty nester" and know it is time to make a change - usually to downsize to a smaller home, bungalow or townhome. Some even choose to live at the cottage, move to Florida/Arizona or buy a boat and live there for half of the year. Downsizing is the usual choice.

In any event you decide to sell and downsize the house which you really do not need any more and find something more appropriate to your new lifestyle. After 20+ years in the same house moving is a daunting prospect and you realize you need some professional help.

Most people do not want to get too far from family and friends so their next step is to choose a bungalow or even a townhouse. At this stage most people don't choose a condo because it makes them feel prematurely old.

We referred to the term "senior" as a process. That is because the first step is usually not the last. Consider the likely possibilities as you get older and accumulate more health issues: Detached Family Home → Bungalow → Townhouse → Condo/Apartment or live with the kids → Assisted Living Residence → Nursing Home. You might skip a step or two along the way but this is a natural progression and taking the first step probably indicates that you are a Senior.

Lynn and John have actually begun this process themselves and now reside in an executive townhouse. They have also moved Lynn's Mom from a detached home to the Sands Condos and most recently to the Mountainview Residence.

This is the first of a series of articles on Seniors and downsizing. We encourage you to send us your questions and ideas for future articles to [lynn@lynnandjohn.ca](mailto:lynn@lynnandjohn.ca) or 905 873-0440.

Lynn is a qualified Accredited Seniors Agent. John is a Real Estate Broker and Chartered Accountant (FCA). Lynn and John work and live in Georgetown. They are sales representatives with Re/Max Realty Specialists Inc., Brokerage.



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