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The Independent
Weekend Edition & Free Press

Real Estate Digest

Rental vacancies drop

The vacancy rate for Canada's 26 metropolitan areas fell in April to 4.2 per cent, the lowest level in four years, according to the Rental Market Survey released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The rate was down from 4.6 per cent a year ago, but higher than the 3.8 per cent in April 1991.

Secure your home before going on vacation

Summer vacations are a cherished tradition among many Canadians. Before you leave, remember to take some important precautions to improve your chances of having a worry-free vacation.

- Lock all windows and doors - 'charley bars' on patio doors are a good idea.
- Don't leave spare keys hanging in plain sight inside you house, nor in any obvious outdoor hiding spot, such as under the door mat. Leave a spare

key with someone whom you trust.

■ If you are leaving vehicles parked in the driveway, move all the contents to the trunk and ensure that the doors are locked. Never leave spare keys in the wheel wells.

■ Have your newspapers and mail redirected or picked up.

■ Ensure that shrubbery, trees or bushes near doors and windows are well trimmed.

■ Have someone cut your grass.

■ If you're taking your only car, ask a neighbor to park their car in your

driveway.

■ Don't leave an outside light burning all day long and don't leave all the drapes and blinds closed - these are sure signs that the house is unoccupied. Install light timers to switch lights on and off periodically.

■ Move video and stereo equipment away from the windows.

■ Store small valuables and heirlooms in a safe deposit box.

■ Have someone visit your home on a regular basis, to collect mail and flyers, to adjust lights and drapes.


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OPEN HOUSE
Sun. June 23
2-4 p.m.
26 Hall Road

Mortgage security

In today's uncertain economic climate, homeowners need a way to guarantee that mortgage payments can be met in the event of job loss or layoffs.

This is where Always Home Job Loss Mortgage Insurance comes to the rescue. For those insured with Always Home, mortgage payments will be covered until a new job is found for a maximum period of 12 months.

The plan was developed by the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) in conjunction with Pafco Insurance Company Limited and Thompson, Thompson & Associates, Ltd.

For more information, call 1-800-665-5511, or 622-4512 in the Greater Toronto Area.



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All information is correct at press time. Prices and specifications are subject to change. E.O. & E.