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The Independent & Free Press

Real Estate Digest

YES YOU CAN OWN A Home

National Home Show begins April 4

No matter how your garden grows, the Feature Gardens at the National Home Show (NHS), running April 4 to 13 at the new National Trade Centre, will provide a fresh breath of spring for show attendees.

The move to a spacious new home, has enabled the event to increase the range of gardening options for homeowners. The landscaped garden portion of this year's Home Show will encompass 26,000 square feet, four times the area reserved for gardening at last year's event!

A special section, known as the Dream Garden, will include a variety

of landscape designs from 13 leading Metro Toronto area landscapers.

Each display will be different from the rest, using an assortment of materials ranging from interlocking stone, flagstone, limestone, cobblestone, Brussels block and incorporating special touches, such as gazebos, arbours, trellises, hanging baskets, ponds, fountains and waterfalls—all providing a thematic and colorful backdrop to a wide range of flowers, ground cover, shrubs and trees. To assist visitors, each garden will be manned by expert resource personnel so homeowners can learn how to apply these ideas to their own homes.

The event will also be presenting an English Country Garden theme surrounding The Toronto Star Dream Home.

The 10-day show runs at The National Trade Centre and Automotive Building, Exhibition Place, in Toronto, from Friday, April 4 through Sunday April 13. Show hours are: weekdays 12-9:30 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Admission is \$9 for adults and \$6 for seniors. The show is introducing new rates for younger visitors; Juniors (ages 13-17) \$6 and 12 & under free.

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It could save your life

Know your fire escape plan

The fact that seven out of 10 fires occur in the home is good reason to plan an escape route. In addition to the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms, escape routes need to be planned and practiced. Don't take a chance, plan in advance.

Escape routes can save precious time in the event of a fire. Familiarize family members with a floor plan of your home. Identify all fire exits, calling attention to the main fire route as well as alternate routes. Know two exits from every room. Once you've got a plan—practice it.

To make a fire drill as real as possible, have family members sit in their respective bedrooms. Ask them to close their doors and wait until the sound of the alarm. Practise the different escape routes and explain to children when to use which route. You may want to draw up a fire safety card with cartoon illustrations and post it on the fridge.

If an escape route is filled with smoke, stay low. Heat and smoke rise. The closer you are to the ground the better. Crawl quickly on your hands and knees to the nearest exit. Be prepared to take an alternate route at the first sight of flames.

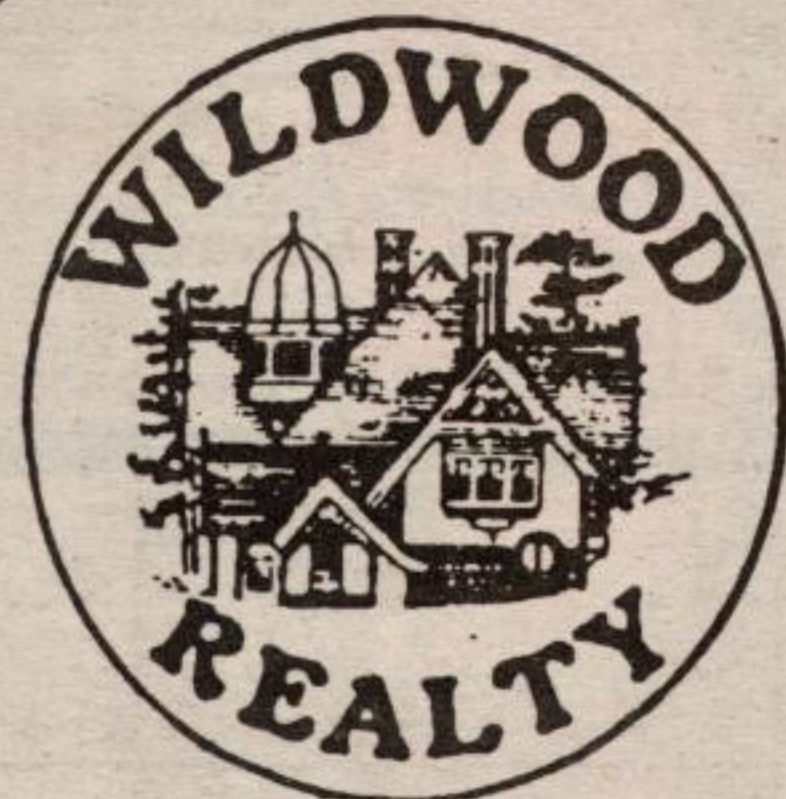
Never open a door if you suspect there are flames on the other side of it. It only takes a moment to detect heat on the door, its handle, or the space between the door and the frame. If it's hot use another exit. If not, brace your shoulder against the door and open it.

Be prepared to shut it immediately if heat or smoke begin to pour in. As you exit your home, close doors behind you to delay the spreading of fire.

If trapped in a room in your house, do what you can to stop smoke from entering. Close doors and seal cracks around them and any air vents with wet towels or other fabrics. Cover your nose and mouth with a damp cloth and signal for help via the window or phone.

Before fighting a fire yourself, determine the following: is it containable, has the fire department been notified, is everyone else out of danger, and do you have a clear exit, the proper tools and know-how to do so? If you are prepared to use a fire extinguisher, ensure that it is designed for the type of fire you've encountered. Remember the fire extinguisher PASS word: Pull the pin. Aim low. Squeeze the handle. Sweep from side to side, aiming the extinguisher at the base of the fire. If your clothes catch fire, stop where you are, drop and roll.

All family members should go to an arranged meeting place, preferably at the front of the house where the fire department will arrive. Once everyone is accounted for, call fire-fighters from a neighbor's phone. Dial 9-1-1.



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"I wouldn't sell a house that I wouldn't buy myself"