

## Book explains real estate terms

The following glossary, an excerpt from the Ontario Real Estate Association's *How to Buy Your Home* book, provides definitions of some of the most common real estate terms you are likely to come across.

The book also fully explains the process of buying a home and is available free-of-charge by calling 1-800-563-HOME.

Amortization: The number of years it takes to repay the entire amount of a mort-gage

Assessment: The value of a property, set by the local municipality, for the purposes of calculating property tax

Assumable mortgage: A mortgage held on a property by the seller that can be taken over by the buyer, who then accepts responsibility for making the mortgage payments

Blended mortgage: A combination of two mortgages, one with a higher interest rate than the other, to create a new mortgage with an interest rate somewhere between the two original rates

Bridge financing: Money borrowed against a homeowner's equity in a property, usually for a short term to help finance the purchase of another property or make improvements to a property being sold.

Buy-down: When the seller reduces the interest rate on a mortgage by paying the difference between the reduce rate and market rate directly to the lender or to the purchaser in one lump sum or monthly installments

Conventional mortgage: A first mortgage issued for up to 75 per cent of the property's appraised value or purchase price, whichever is lower

Debt service ratio: The percentage of a borrower's gross income that can be used

for housing costs, including mortgage payments and taxes (and condo fees when applicable)

Easement: A legal right to use or cross (right-of-way) another person's land for limited purposes. A common example is a utility company's right-to run wires or lay

pipe across a property

Encroachment: An intrusion onto an adjoining property- such as a neighbour's fence, storage shed or overhanging roof line that partially (or even fully) intrudes onto your property

Equity: The difference between the price for which a property can be sold and the mortgage(s) on the property. Equity is the owner's "state" in a property

High-ratio mortgage: A mortgage for more than 75 per cent of a property's appraised value or purchase price

Land transfer tax: Payment to the provincial government for transferring property from the seller to the buyer

Lien: Any legal claim against a property, filed to ensure payment of a debt

Status certificate: A written statement of a condominium unit's current financial and legal status

Variable-rate mortgage: A mortgage for which payments are fixed, but whose interest rate changes in relationship to fluctuating market interest rates. If market rates go up, a larger portion of the payment goes to interest. If rates go down, a larger portion of the payment is applied to the principal.

Vendor-take-back mortgage: When sellers use their equity in a property to provide some or all of the mortgage financing in order to sell the property

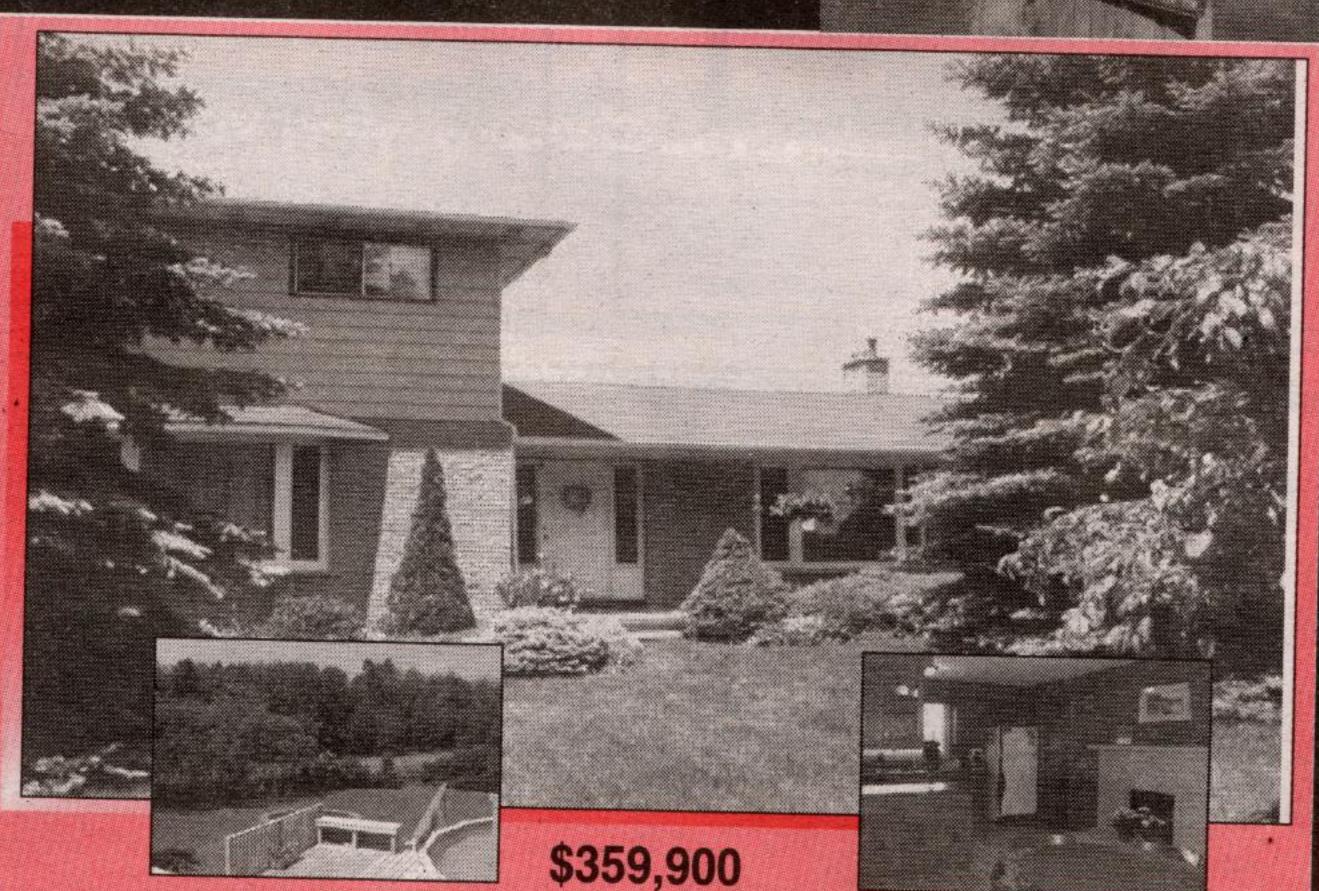
-By Ontario Real Estate Association





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