

A Special Supplement to

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Home, Lawn & Garden

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Increase your home's value by renovating

Hardwood floors top the "top 3 profitable renovations" list, closely followed by kitchen cabinets and bathrooms. Real estate agents always make a point of showcasing these features, so you can be sure that any work you put in here will make your house sell more easily...and at a higher price.

Maximize your assets

If you're thinking of selling your home soon, renovation projects may take on a new meaning. Choosing a home is often a matter of "love at first sight," so you can improve your chances of a quick sale by making your home look especially attractive. New cupboard doors in wood grain melamine, new handles and a designer tap - all installed on your own - might cost a couple hundred dollars but it will make your 30-year-old house look young again...and let you add an extra \$1,500 to the selling price.

Do it yourself - for yourself

It's true that the same renovations in identical houses in different neighborhoods will not always provide the same return on investment. In some circumstances, melamine cupboards, laminate counters and ceramics are a better bet than oak, granite and exotic wood, if profitability is what you're after. But you shouldn't lose sight of the fact that, first and foremost, the renovations are for you and your enjoyment - and often for the long haul. The "value added" is a bonus that you'll cash in on when you sell your home some day down the road. So before you make your plans, take a good look at your own needs, limits and desires.

Want more information? Contact your local RONA expert or go to www.rona.ca for practical advice and lots of handy tips.

—News Canada

Help from Harwood's

With spring finally here, green-thumbed customers are flocking to Harwood's Horticultural Soil Farm and Nursery at 12144 Steeles Avenue (west of Hornby) to pick up all sorts of supplies to give their yards a fresh new look. Customer Rose Toste (in back) was recently given a hand loading a skid of sidewalk slabs by employee Jen Tait (left) and Harwood co-owner Grace Harwood.

Photo by Ted Brown

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