

Real Estate Board offers more to sellers and buyers

Oakville, Ontario, November 30, 1998 - The Oakville, Milton and District Real Estate Board has taken the unprecedented step of distributing all properties and business for sale which are listed on the Board's MLS (Multiple Listing Service) system to all Realtors in Ontario through the internet.

The MLS system is a computerized database of all properties currently for sale and sold in the Oakville-Milton area, including colour exterior and interior pictures. It is widely used by Realtors for the distribution of property information and matching that information with buyers. Most of the Province's 48 Real Estate Boards each run their own MLS system and, until now, that information has been available to only that Board's Members. The Oakville, Milton and District Real Estate Board already has information-sharing agreements in place with Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Burlington, Hamilton, Guelph, London-St. Thomas, Kitchener-Waterloo, Barrie, Cambridge and Sudbury. Board President Peter Tulloch remarked, "This will give all of our 'property for sale' information to a targeted group in the Province. Every real estate salesperson Provincially will have access to those properties through the Internet. We believe this to be an unprecedented and valuable service to the public."

Some information on proper-

ties is already available to the public and Realtors through the Internet at mls.ca and realtor.com, but this information is not complete enough to be used by salespeople when they have buyers relocating to the area. With this new venture, any salesperson that has clients moving to the district will be able to give them comprehensive information prior to their arriving. Tulloch went on to say, "Gone are the days that we had to call long-distance, locate a salesperson and have information faxed or sent by courier to us. The information is complete and immediate".

The Oakville, Milton and District Real Estate Board is the only Board in Canada, and perhaps internationally, that is offering this service. The Board also has indicated that if the program proves successful, they will distribute the information first nationally and then worldwide. There is absolutely no cost to any Realtor to access this information provided they have access to the Internet.

The Oakville, Milton and District Real Estate Board represents about 530 real estate salespeople and Brokers, all of whom are also members of OREA and CREA, the Provincial and National Associations. It was one of the first Boards in Ontario to have a computerized MLS system and is seen as a leader in information sharing. You may visit their website at omdreb.on.ca.

Home for the Holidays

It's that time of year when families come together to share the holidays. What better time to get the house looking and feeling warm and festive? Here are just a few suggestions to give your home a cozy, romantic glow.

A good place to start is the entrance since this is where first impressions are made. Dress up the front door with a dried floral wreath. Is your front hall welcoming with good lighting and a convenient place to hand coats? Mirrors and candlelight brighten a foyer nicely, and a rice oriental or braided rug adds a warm touch.

Moving on from the foyer, family and friends usually settle into the living or family room. If you have a fireplace, consider a damask mantle scarf to add rich texture, accessorized with lighted candles and family photos. A big, brass container is wonderful for holding extra firewood. Look at the furniture arrangement. Are pieces arranged

in comfortable conversational groupings?

In the dining room, your goal should be a delicious atmosphere for home-cooked meals. Drape the table with holiday linen. You can easily create a table cloth out of any fabric that suites your fancy. For an enchanting combination, drape the table with two coordinating table cloths - a rich solid as a base topped with a shorter coordinating pattern. The centerpiece should be lively but not overbearing, as you don't want it to act as a barrier between guests.

Among these, there are dozen more ways to make your guests and family feel at home for the holidays. Put your own family's personality into everything you do. Preparing to welcome family and guests to your house is a lot of fun, if not a great excuse to complete that long overdue decorating project!

This article is brought to you by the Decorating Den.

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