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RRSP loans expected to lift house sales

Federal Finance Minister Don bound to increase the number of Mazankowski's decision to let people currently shopping for new Canadians use RRSPs for house pur- properties — although it's tough to chases represents a "government say how big the increase will be." boost" to the spring real estate market, according to the Oakville, to borrow up to \$20,000 from their Milton and District Real Estate RRSP savings plans to use as a Board.

downpayment in buying a principal "It's a strong step in the right residence. The offer is valid for one direction for real estate," says Board year only, and the RRSP money president Mark Mallalieu. "It's must be repaid within 15 years. Any

amount that is not repaid will be ? treated as a permanent withdrawal and subject to tax.

"The program should provide a The Federal budget allows people tremendous boost to real estate sales locally - and not just in lower price ranges," Mr. Mallaliew explained.

"Interest rates are low, prices are 3 stable and the government recently announced it will permit downpayments as low as five per cent of a property's value," he says. "Add in a the right to borrow from existing RRSP savings, and we should see a ... ripple up' effect in all price go categories. With careful financial ? planning, many people should be able to realize their personal housing goals this year."

Pet of the Week



Bomber is an adorable, domestic short-haired cat hoping to be adopted soon from the Oakville Humane Society. The nine-monthold, easy-going and friendly animal is an indoor female cat with lots of personality. For adoption information, contact the shelter, 445 Maple Ave., in Oakville at 845-1551.



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