Single women becoming more active in real estate

Now outnumber single men in buying a new homes in Canada

The proportion of single women buying resale homes in Toronto has increased substantially, according to a study released by Royal LePage.

The Royal LePage Homebuyer Survey analyzed the demographics of thousands of

to Vancouver.

Women now account for 56.8 per cent of

months of 1993. It found more single per cent higher than last year. Male buyers women are buying homes than single men. declined 4 per cent, dropping to 43.2 per In fact, Toronto has the second greatest per- cent. As a whole, singles represented 27 per centage of women buyers in Canada, next cent of market activity, up 2 per cent over

"There are a number of probable influen-

ese, Royal LePage vice-president and regional manager, "including improving income levels, the realization that buying a home is a hedge against rent increases, and social trends like people waiting longer to get married.

"Whatever the factors, it's apparent that more and more single women in Toronto now have the motivation and the capability to buy homes."

The survey also found Toronto leads the country in the number of first-time buyers. They now represent 48 per cent of the

"Market conditions are ideal for first-time buyers," he said.. "Low mortgage rates, & combined with government incentives such as access to RRSP funds for home ownership and the 5 per cent downpayment plan, are the major factors influencing activity. However, we are also starting to see some movement in the move-up market."

For example, the number of people buying their second home inched upward, rising from 26 per cent to 27 per cent. According to Mr. Romanese, depressed housing prices in the upper-end of the market are prompting move-up buyers to take advantage of the opportunity to upgrade.



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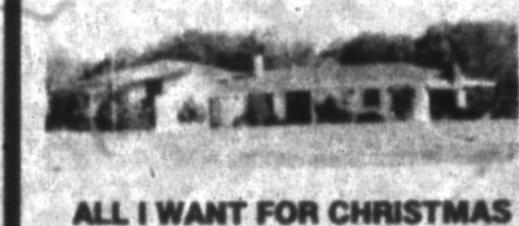
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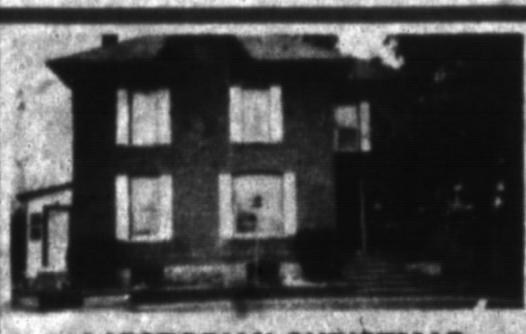
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