



Johanna Rienstra
For all your Real Estate needs
BROKER



Helping *you* is what we do

View on Fallingbrook

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HOME SECURITY WHILE ON VACATION

Planning a vacation?

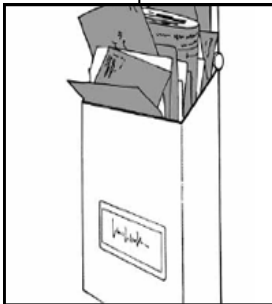
Here are a few do's and don'ts:

- All family members, including children, should avoid advertising your vacation plans in advance. Load your car or trailer in the garage rather than in the driveway.
- Arrange for a trusted neighbour to collect your mail, shovel the walk, and do anything else that helps give the home the appearance of being occupied. This person should also know your itinerary and where you can be reached in an emergency.
- As an inexpensive security measure, use timers that will turn lights on and off in several rooms in a pattern that corresponds with your normal activities.
- If your drapes are normally open when you are home, leave them

that way. If you have a second car, leave it parked in the driveway.

- Leave a radio playing to indicate that someone is home.
- If you will be away for several months, consider getting a house sitter.

Exterior Lighting



- Good lighting is one of the cheapest and yet most effective measures you can take to deter break-ins after dark.
- Incandescent, LED or fluorescent floodlights mounted under the eaves or on a peaked gable are a good option. Protect light bulbs with a wire screen or unbreakable plastic mesh. Replace burned-out bulbs immediately.
- Aim light downward so as not

to create shadows. Prune back trees and shrubbery that block the light.

- A photoelectric switch wired into the lighting grid will turn lights on at dusk and off again at dawn. You can also have a digital in-wall timer installed to vary the on/off time of your exterior lights throughout the week.

Source: CMHC

Durham's Spring Market is Hear Early!

Unit sales of single family properties increased by 5% to 532 from 507 in December, and a big jump from 350 in January of 2009 when unit sales were much lower due to the recession reported Dierdre Mullen, President of the Durham Region Association of REALTORS®. The January resale housing market in Durham Region is definitely healthy.

Average prices in Durham inched up slightly to \$289,195 from December's \$286,724. More specifically in Whitby, prices have increased 5.48% for all single residential units.

Active listings increased by 16.5% to 1423 from December's 1221 but dropped by 39% from January 2009. In Whitby the listings available in January 2009 were 327 compared to 162 in January 2010. "We haven't been in a seller's market territory since 2004 when housing inventory was recorded at 1411 listings on the MLS® System."

YOUR FALLINGBROOK SUBDIVISION

Currently For Sale: 4

Avg. List Price: \$ 356,575

Low: \$ 270,000

High: \$ 425,000

Sold in Jan. 2010: 1

Avg Sale Price: \$ 250,000

Low: \$ 250,000

High: \$ 250,000

Avg. % of List: 98%

Fallingbrook Subdivision Stats as of February 2, 2010

HOME DESIGN CONSUMER TRENDS

Over the past 10 years, the formal living room in most homes has been reinvented - it's now a library, workspace, perhaps a music or games room. Many are now willing to buy a home without a living room at all. What we want is some combination of a kitchen and great room where the family can interact. Homes are more laid-back and user-friendly. The most well-liked rooms are now the home office, mud room, and media room. What we don't want so much anymore; three-car garages, guest rooms and formal living rooms.

Living al Fresco

The outdoor room really has been one of the largest changes. Many have an outdoor space now, even if it's tiny. With seating, dining, even kitchens, these rooms are treated like their indoor counterparts. Fire pits, weather-resistant fabrics and furniture, and commercial quality heaters extend the outdoor season.

Living Green

After a long period of inactivity, gardening took off in the past few years. We're concerned about our carbon footprint. Renewed interest in environmental stewardship starts literally in the backyard. We're digging up the lawn and planting native greenery that requires little maintenance or water. We're putting down less pesticide. More of us are composting. Being green indoors moved from the fringe into the mainstream design. We started demanding paint and other home



products that were enviro-friendly. Sustainable harvested wood became a selling feature. Many designers embraced the trend, giving us beautiful art and furniture made of recycled materials.

Living Creatively

Empowered by informative blogs, magazines, and TV shows, the DIY boom continues. We're turning linen closets into offices and re-purposing what we already own in clever, practical ways.

Living Relaxed

We've loosened up. It's OK to have the computer and TV in the heart of the home. There's been a shift toward a more practical, casual lifestyle over the past decade. Real comfort, visual and physical, is vital to every room. Suites of furniture? Passé. Untouchable formal rooms? Over. We're comfortable mixing and matching - a major shift from the 80's and 90's when people mostly picked one style for the whole home.

Others

Other trends of the decade include: stainless steel appliances, granite counters, media furniture, Wi-Fi home theatres, cherry cabinetry, low profile home entertainment systems (i.e. flat screens and mini speakers), less is more in window treatments, and high pigment one-coat paints.

CHHMA, Volume 10, Issue 03, Jan 20, 2010

Community Happenings

- **Creative Math & Music Grand Opening**
Saturday, Feb 20th, 2010 10 Meadwglan Drive, Whitby
Music lessons, math tutoring, birthday parties and march break and summer rock camps
www.creativemathandmusic.com
- **Whitby Idol Application** Deadline Feb. 22nd, 2010
If you think you have what it takes to be one of the next Whitby Idols contact Cheri-Lynn Irani iraniranic@whitby.ca
- **Ladie's Day at the Brim**
Monday, Feb 22nd, 2010 Brimacombe Ski Hill
\$90 incl. 3 meals, exclusive access to the slopes, live entertainment, and more. Proceeds to Bethesda House.
Contact Teresa McKenna admin@brimacombe.ca

Kid's Corner

